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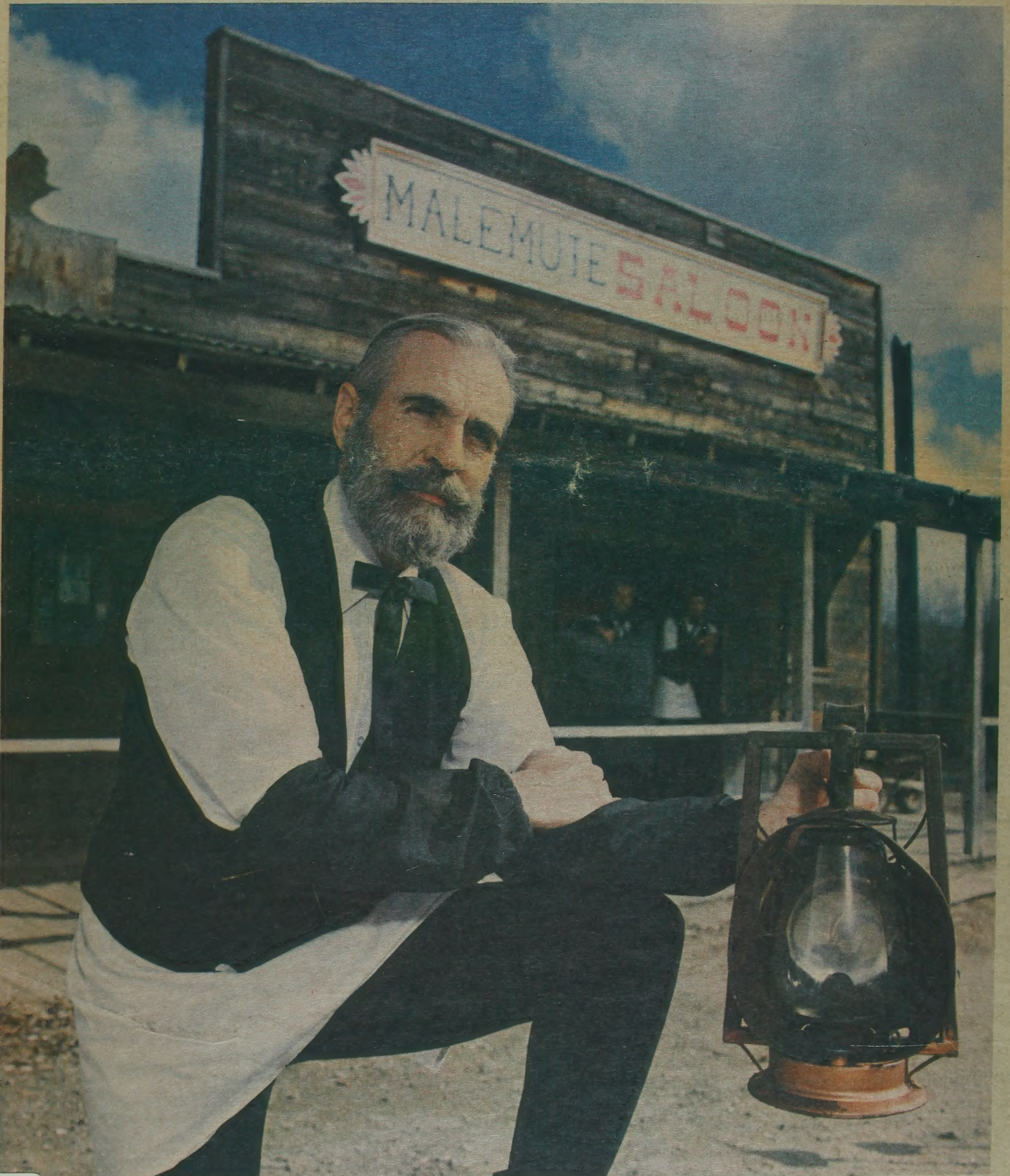


Interior & Arctic Alaska VISITORS GUIDE

No. 1, 1980

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(Photo by Eric Muehling)

Don Pearson outside the historic Malemute Saloon in Ester

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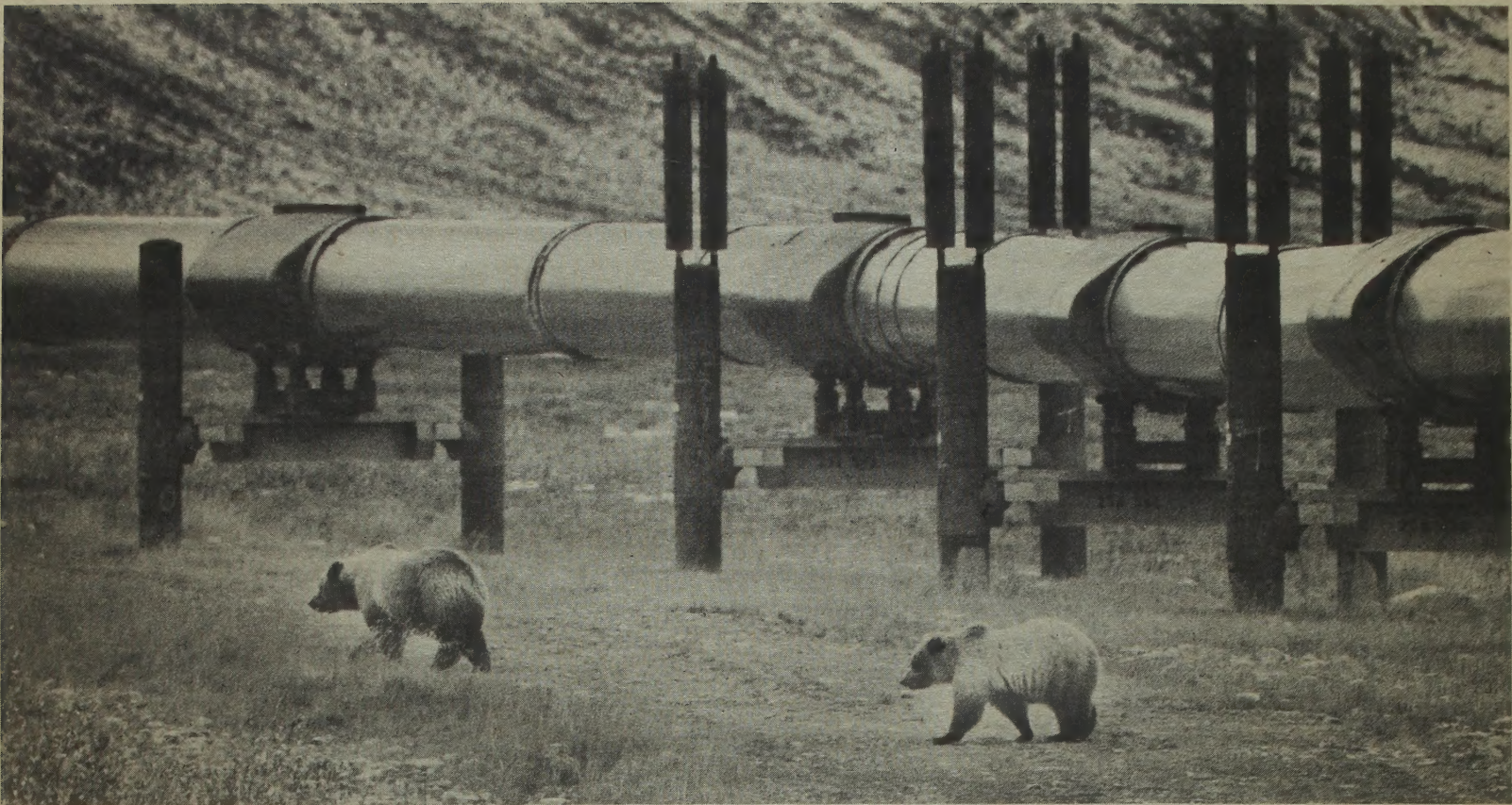
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WALKING THE LINE—Apparently not bothered by the trans-Alaska oil pipeline, these grizzlies photographed near Atigun Pass in the Brooks Range stroll merrily on

their way. The pipeline extends 800 miles from Prudhoe Bay on the Arctic Ocean to Valdez on Price William Sound. For more about Alaska's wildlife, see pages 30-31.

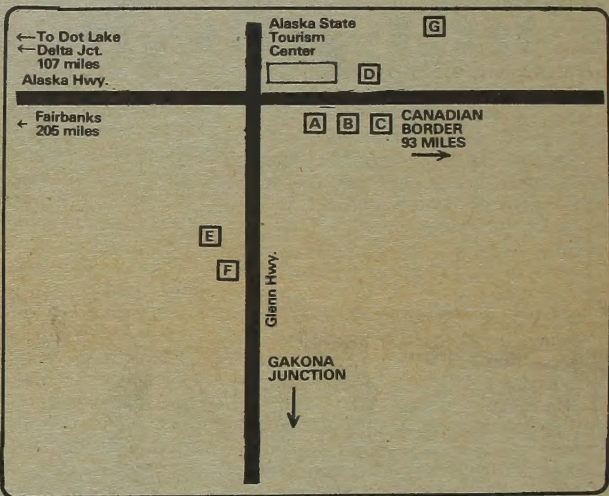
(Staff photo by Eric Muehling)

Tok marks return to pavement

Tok is a good place to be after a trip up the Alaska Highway. As the first highway community in Alaska for vistors from the Lower 48 and Canada, Tok serves as a major service center for more than 2,000 people and 30,000 square miles. Here a tourist can get a vehicle repaired and replenish his stock of supplies. Tok lies in the wide valley of the Tanana River and is surrounded by wilderness. The Tanana is an important

tributary to the Yukon River, which it joins west of Fairbanks. To the southeast lie the Wrangell Mountains and to the southwest, the Alaska Range. Temperatures of over 80 in the summer and 60 below in winter are not uncommon. Travelers should stop at the state-operated Vistors Center where much Alaska information is available, and employees are there around the clock to answer questions.

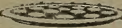
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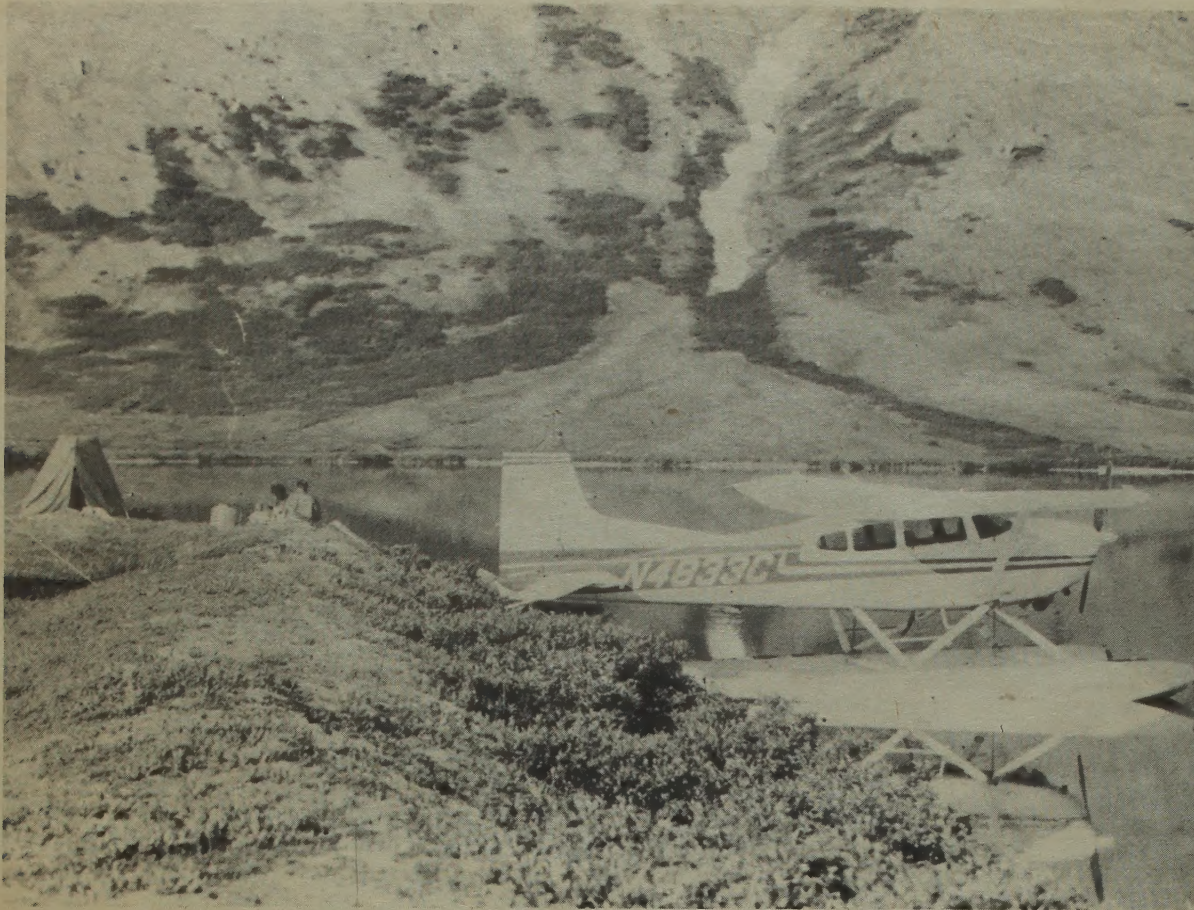


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PRIME SPOT—Air charters provide a way to escape crowds of anglers and get the fishing experience of a lifetime. Fly-in fishing trips may be arranged for lake trout (mackinaws), sheefish, arctic char and northern pike. Grayling, abundant in many Alaskan streams, can be found in many of these fly-in areas.

(Fish and Game photo)

Plan ahead for air charter trips

By SUE LEWIS
Staff Writer

Although much of Alaska's interior can't be reached by car or boat, travelers need not be stymied by the lack of surface access.

Many Alaskans recommend seeing the state by air, and in some cases, it's the only way to go.

As with any other way of traveling, planning ahead is a key, say most air taxi and charter operators.

"We get a number of calls in the summer from people who have hit Fairbanks—maybe they drove up the highway—and they want to go see the wilderness. But most of their ideas have no relation to what it's going to cost them," says Ed Peebles of Frontier Flying Service.

Although most aircraft charter for more than \$100 per hour, many visitors report the fly-in trips they made were

the high points of their trips to Alaska.

The actual cost of any trip will depend on the type of aircraft flown, the number of passengers it carries, the time spent flying, the time spent on the ground, and in some cases, the amount of gas burned.

Pete Hagglund of Alaska Central Air says prices between carriers are competitive for the same type of aircraft.

"Every outfit is a little different but the basic rates are nearly standard for the same equipment," he said.

Some air taxis will quote "wet" prices that include fuel costs, but more and more are quoting "dry" hourly rates where the passengers also pay for any fuel that's burned.

According to Peebles, the rapidly increasing cost of fuel is the reason some companies quote "dry" rates. The Alaska Transportation Com-

mission requires air taxis to file notices of rate increases 45 days before they become effective. With fuel prices increasing rapidly, companies quoting rates that include fuel costs may fall behind before the 45 days expire.

Hagglund said travelers should arrange sight-seeing air charters at least a day or so in advance, and allow more time in advance to arrange for air transportation for back-packing, camping or float trips.

The Federal Aviation Administration says 45 carriers have air taxi and charter certificates in interior Alaska. Most are listed in Yellow Pages of the telephone book, and the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce also has a list. The chamber and many Fairbanks travel agents also have brochures that describe trips different carriers offer.

Jim Pirie of Aurora Air Service also advises travelers to arrange summer charters early, "because summertime is very, very busy."

Other tips air taxi operators offer to travelers planning trips by air include:

- Pick an aircraft that's suited to the size of the group;
- Find out the cost and policy of

"stand-by time" the pilot and plane spend on the ground. Some companies offer free ground time, others require payment, and some offer some of the ground time free. • Compare prices and round-trip flight time for different types of aircraft. Smaller planes are generally cheaper by the hour, but they fly slower and carry fewer passengers, so a trip in a larger plane could end up costing less.

• Ask if the charter rate is "wet" and includes fuel or "dry" and fuel costs are added.

• Ask if a scheduled flight is available, at least part way. Scheduled flights are generally cheaper than charters, but reservations must be made in advance.

• Don't expect the air taxi operator to be a travel agent; have an idea where you want to go before shopping around.

• Be certain the operator has appropriate air taxi certificates. Private pilots or commercial pilots may not legally accept payment for hauling passengers, although in some specific cases pilots can share costs with passengers.

'Alaska's Golden Circle'

Three Alaskan cities—Anchorage, Fairbanks and Valdez—are overnight points for a circle tour through the northern wilderness, offered this summer by Alaska Sightseeing Co., a division of Alaska-Yukon Motorcoaches Inc.

From Anchorage to Valdez, the tour route crosses the Kenai Peninsula and follows the coastline of Prince William Sound. The inland portion of the itinerary reaches north beyond the Alaska Range to Fairbanks, 100 miles south of the Arctic Circle.

The full circle route traverses some of the most spectacular scenery in Alaska—Mount McKinley National Park, Columbia Glacier, Richardson Highway, Chugach Range, Kenai Peninsula, Keystone Canyon, Copper River Valley.

Alaska Sightseeing has labeled its tour "Alaska's Golden Circle." Daily departures are offered June 1 through Sept. 16.

One day of the itinerary includes a six-hour cruise across Prince William Sound past the face of Columbia Glacier, one of the largest tidewater iceflows in the northern hemisphere.

On another day, travelers follow the Richardson Highway from the pipeline city of Valdez across the

Chugach Mountains and Alaska Range to Fairbanks.

Today's 364-mile highway, which offers frequent views of the trans-Alaska pipeline, is considered by many Alaskans to be the state's most beautiful drive. Glaciers, waterfalls, spruce forests, tundra meadows and five large rivers provide an ever-changing panorama of magnificent alpine scenery.

Overnight accommodations are provided in Valdez and Fairbanks or Anchorage. A four-hour stern-wheeler cruise from Fairbanks aboard the riverboat "Discovery" shows passengers the natural history of the Tanana River, a Yukon tributary, and recalls the days when riverboats plied the Yukon all the way from the Bering Sea to Whitehorse in the Yukon Territory—a distance of more than 2,000 miles.

The "Golden Circle" itinerary is an independent tour. Travelers are not part of a group or accompanied by an escort. Tour costs start from \$249.00 for a three-day tour.

For more information, see your travel agent, or contact Alaska Sightseeing Co., 327 F Street, Anchorage, 99501, telephone (907) 276-1305; or 900 Noble Street, Fairbanks, 99701, telephone (907) 452-8518.

Alaska Railroad offers relaxing excursions south

Every day at 9:30 a.m. a train unlike any other in the nation pulls out of the railroad depot in Fairbanks.

Born of adversity, the Alaska Railroad was carved out of the wilderness from 1915 to 1923. President Warren G. Harding, the first chief executive to set foot in Alaska, drove the golden spike in Nenana on July 15, 1923.

Owned by the federal government, the Alaska Railroad offers daily passenger service to Anchorage. The train arrives in Mt. McKinley National Park at 1:10 p.m. and in Anchorage at 8 p.m. The one-way fare for the 360-mile-trip to Anchorage is \$49.75.

A popular excursion is to take a one-day trip to McKinley, by getting off in the national park and catching the return train back to Fairbanks. The train headed north from Anchorage leaves the park daily at 4:26 p.m. and arrives in Fairbanks at 8 p.m.

For more information call 456-4155 or stop by the depot behind the News-Miner at 200 North Cushman St. You

can ship your car to Anchorage in advance or make arrangements to take a bicycle to Mt. McKinley.

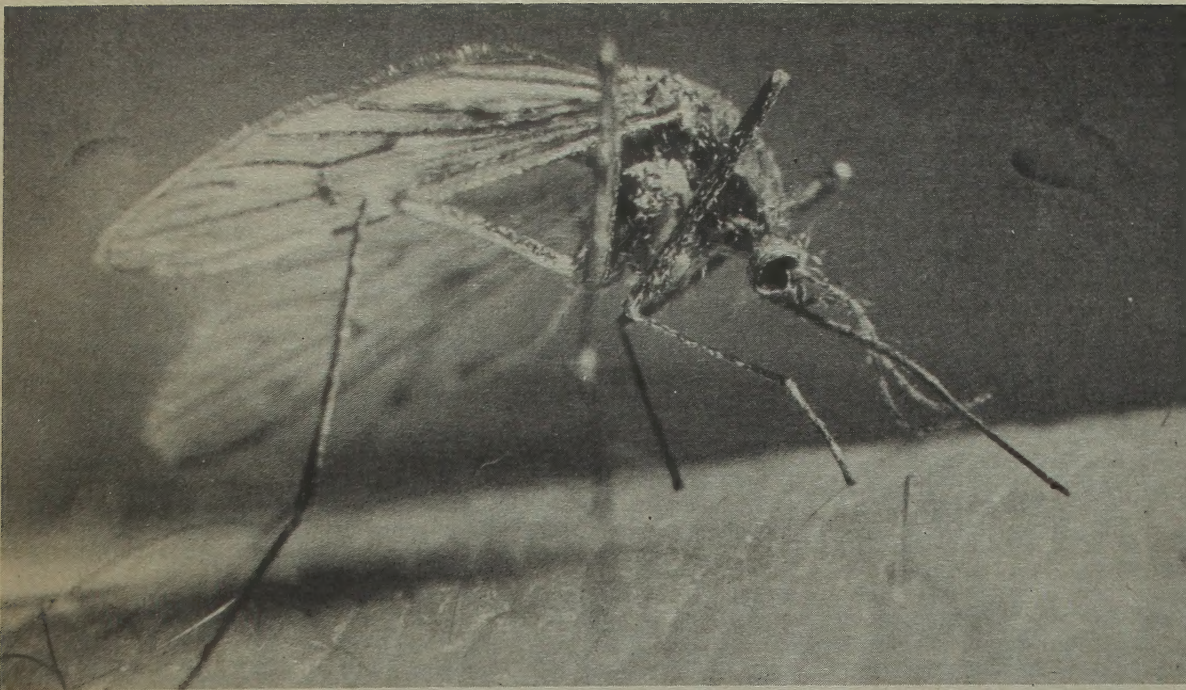
The train trip is popular with tourists and Alaskans, who get a chance to marvel at some wonderful scenery while relaxing along the way. You can often spot Dall Sheep, bear and moose along the way.

There are no reservations and you can buy your ticket on the day of departure.

The passenger service of the railroad is only part of its function. It also is a freight line, providing a solid link between the Interior and the coast.

The railroad made money hauling freight for construction of the trans-Alaska pipeline, but it has required a federal subsidy to keep going since then.

Some visionaries say the future of the iron horse in Alaska will be a bright one. There is talk of extending the railroad south along the Alaska Highway to connect with rail systems in Canada and the Lower 48.



LUNCHTIME—That buzzing you hear is no B-29—though we know it sounds like it and looks like it. What you're hearing is the Alaskan mosquito. The pesky critter comes in several sizes, ranging from king in the spring to itty-bitty by later summer. Some Alaskans think the smaller she is, the harder she bites.

(Staff photo by Eric Muehling)

Alaska hosts the pesky mosquito

By DAN JOLING
Staff Writer

You can bluff a buffalo, outguess a grizzly or mislead a moose, but one wildlife creature bound to find you tasty is the Alaskan mosquito.

Long ignored by animators as a woodland creature capable of sustaining a weekly cartoon series, the mosquito annually takes out its vengeance with a passion on dwellers of the North.

This summer should be no exception. The creatures made their first Fairbanks appearance in April, and should continue their assault on man and beast until the first frost.

Like its bigger cousin, the fly, the mosquito has compound eyes made up of thousands of six-sided lenses. Each point in a slightly different direction and works independently. It cannot focus for sharp vision but quickly sees any movement, which may account for their ability to dodge a lethal swipe. Eyes are always open, even when it sleeps.

Most people probably don't care that the bug beats its wings 1,000 times a second. When's the last time you did anything 1,000 times?

More than 2,500 species are found in the world, but only about 25 to 40 haunt the Interior.

As most people know, only the females bite. Without a protein source the females cannot lay eggs that will hatch. Their male counterparts feed on nectar, which a female will revert to in the absence of a host.

It's not enough that she wants your blood. The female injects saliva into a person's wound to prevent the blood from clotting. Most persons are allergic to the saliva. The itchy welts left behind are a direct result.

Luckily, not all mosquitoes are created equal. As the summer progresses, the insects seem to get smaller and meaner.

The dive bombers that appear in late April are generally winter mosquitoes, which survive the winter as adults and fly out when the weather warms up. Spot these slow moving creatures on a collision course with your face and you can usually dodge them by stepping out of the way and watching them fly by.

The adults winter under leaves or in spaces between bark on trees such as spruce, according to Richard "Skeeter" Werner, a research entomologist at the University of Alaska. "Anywhere they can get away from cold temperatures," Werner said.

To survive, they depend on a chemical known as glycerol, and sugars that resist the cold, which Werner said act like antifreeze.

Like other insects in cold climates, mosquitoes also undergo super cooling, or gradually lowered body temperatures as their environment's temperature decreases. If the drop is rapid, the insect dies.

Other species survive as eggs, larvae or pupae, Werner said. Mosquitoes from larvae and pupae usually show up in late May to early June. Adults that spent the winter as eggs probably will make their appearance in late June, Werner said.

Their numbers can vary greatly. The worst time of year, from the standpoint

of being a dinner, is when the Interior is warmest and wettest. Late June and early July are prime times.

Werner was not overly optimistic for this year's crop, from a human standpoint.

"I think it will probably be pretty bad since we had such a mild winter and early breakup," he said.

The presence of much standing water contributed to his opinion.

The City of Fairbanks normally counters with insecticide sprays, though last year not a drop was sprayed here, according to director of public works Lane Thompson. Nature took

care of the problem herself. "Every year is a different year for mosquitoes," he said.

If needed, Thompson said, the city will begin spraying at the end of May or in early June, figuring Fairbanksans can defend themselves against the bombers.

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The legal drinking age in Alaska is 19. Children may enter licensed premises, but only with a parent or guardian. There are several different kinds of licensed premises in Alaska, including bars, restaurants, roadhouses and clubs. Consumption regulations are generally very broad.

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Valdez' roots go to the Gold Rush

The historic debarkation point for goldseekers headed first for the Klondike, later for the gold fields of Fairbanks, Valdez (pronounced Val-deez) was devastated by a tidal wave from the 1964 Good Friday earthquake, but has risen to new heights as the terminus of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline.

After the quake wiped out the old town, Valdez began to rebuild almost at once about four miles from the original townsite.

Then came the pipeline. Because of its ice-free harbor, Valdez was chosen as the terminus point where oil tankers come to fill up with Alaska's oil.

A visitor to Valdez, population 4,500, will find modern accommodations such as hotels, motels, restaurants and camping parks.

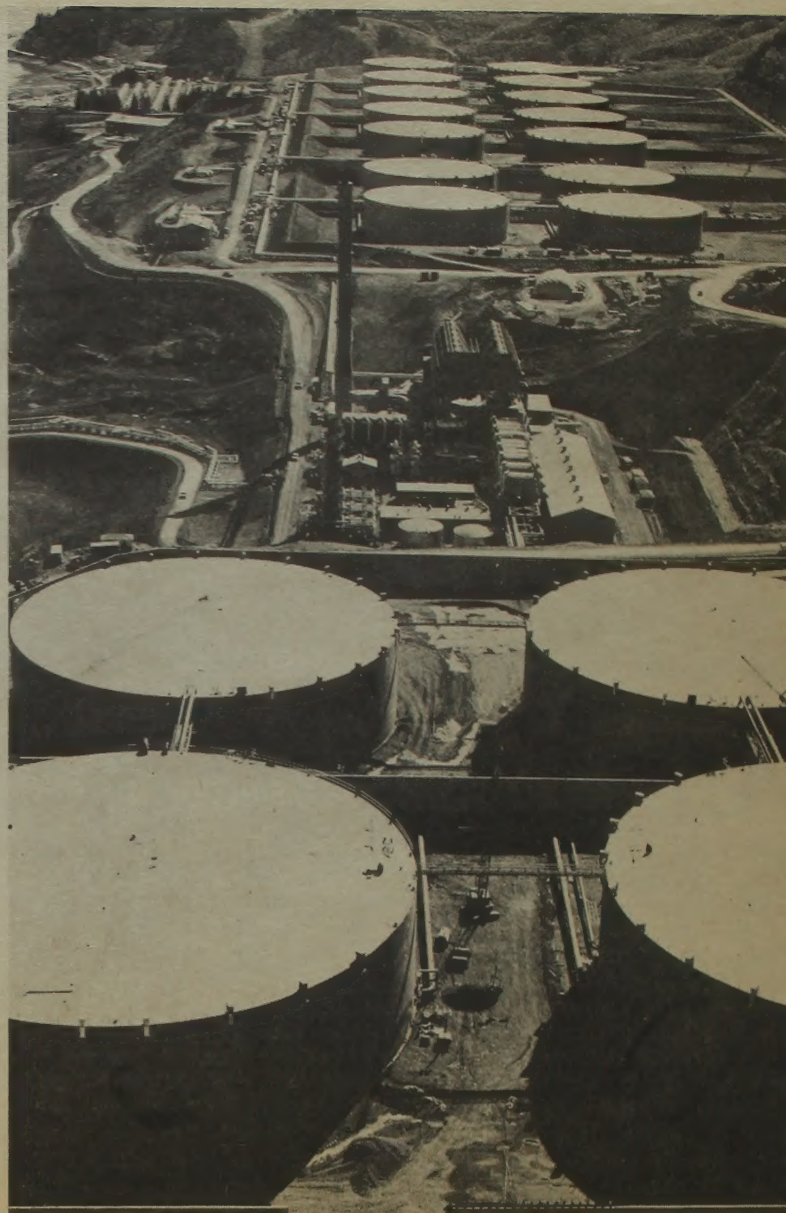
The town is amid some of the most beautiful alpine scenery in Alaska and is a favorite spot for salmon fishing.

One the state's biggest attractions is the Valdez Silver Salmon Derby, which starts in late August and runs to early September.

Other things to do are a cruise to Columbia Glacier and watching the movement of the ships and tankers in and out of the harbor.

And when in Valdez, tourists should visit the Valdez Heritage Center in the 1967 Centennial Building on the corner of Egan and Chenega Drive.

The museum is a local history center with artifacts and photographs relating to the history and growth of Valdez from the early days up to present times. Visitors will be able to see freight sleds and mining tools that illustrate the hardships people endured while searching for gold.



OIL STORAGE—Crude oil storage tanks trail to the sea at Valdez' oil tank farm. Once the beginning of the road for many goldseekers, the ice-free port of Valdez is now the terminus for the trans-Alaska pipeline. Valdez was destroyed in the Great Alaskan earthquake of 1964, but was rebuilt about four miles from the original townsite.

(Alyeska photo by Steve McCutcheon)

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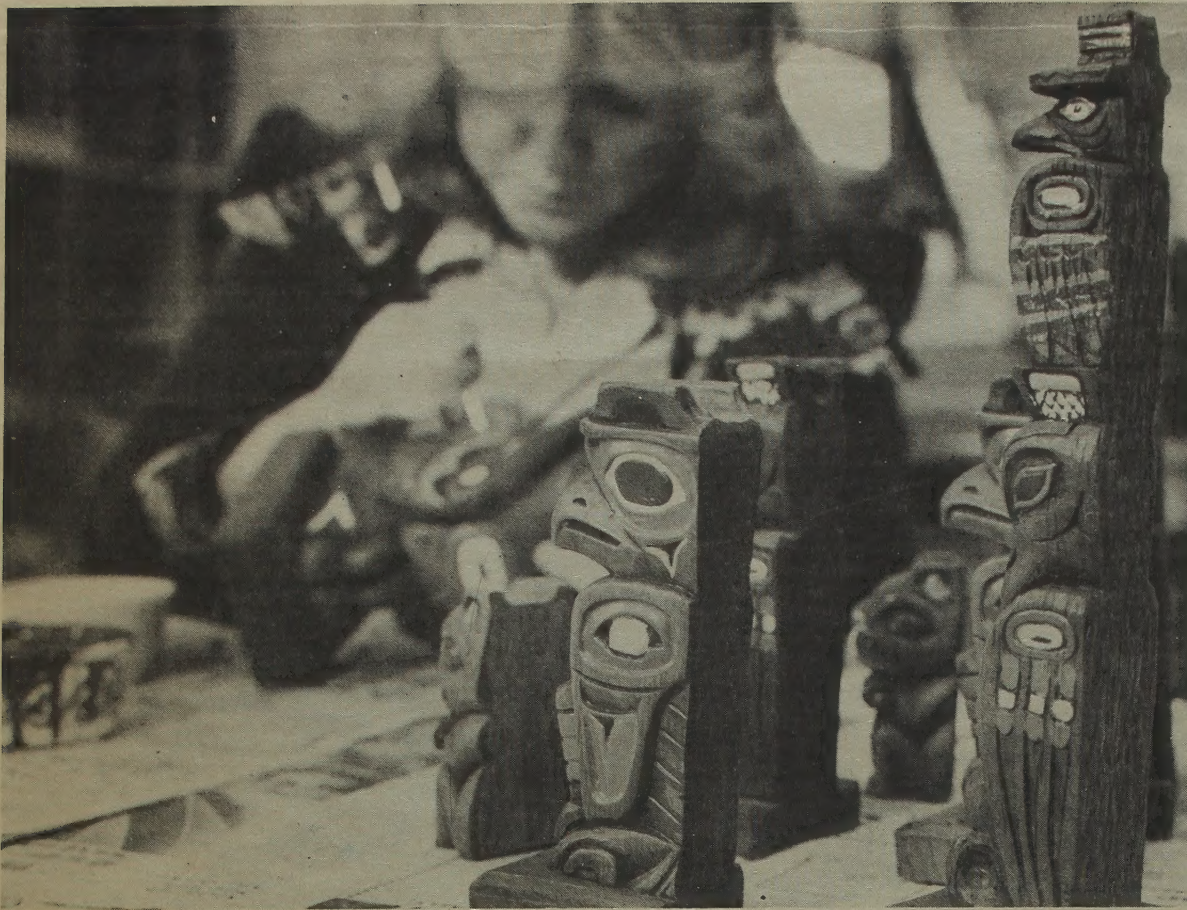
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TINY TOTEMS—An artist hand-paints highlights on molded totem poles manufactured by Kiana of Alaska. From a small operation in the 1970s, the firm has grown into the state's largest giftware manufacturing company, offering an alternative to the "Made in Taiwan" Alaskan curio.

(Photo by Chris Arend)

Alaskan curios made in Alaska

By STEVE KIRSCHBAUM

In the early 1970s, when most of the nation was involved with protest marches and Vietnam, Bill Lee was browsing through local gift shops and turning over "authentic Alaskan curios" to read: "Made in Taiwan."

It was then, armed with a hand-carved totem pole and a dream, that Lee declared his war on East Asian manufacturers. It was the beginning of Kiana of Alaska, the state's largest giftware manufacturing company.

Lee's dream was to take a process

used to simulate wood by furniture manufacturers and modify it for giftware manufacturing. According to Lee, "Learning how was the hard part. Making one item was easy, but making thousands of them was a whole different story."

As with most small businesses, Kiana's start was out-of-pocket and research and development was trial-and-error. In retrospect, Lee feels he did have one advantage: he was in Alaska, isolated from "outside" labs, technicians and manufacturers representatives. Consequently, he didn't know what he shouldn't have been able to do until he'd already succeeded.

After the simulated wood process was modified for giftware manufacturing, molds had to be developed and equipment that couldn't be modified for

use had to be designed and built in Anchorage.

A Kiana totem pole starts with a prototype carved by an Alaskan artisan. Once the carving is completed, several female molds are made from a rubberized material. The manufacturing process begins by spraying a light brown base coat into the mold. The painted mold is then injected with a polyurethane liquid and placed in a press for 15 minutes to rise and solidify. The hardened totems are then removed from the press and dipped in a deep brown stain. Once dried, the totems are hand-painted, point-of-sale labels are attached and they're packaged for shipment to retail stores.

As Lee's Alaskan-manufactured totem pole gained popularity, he varied the line and diversified, adding a second line: Nuni Dolls. Soon a line of trophy bases was developed,

manufactured and wholesaled through a local distributor.

In 1975, Kiana started its own wholesale company and began selling directly to local retailers throughout Alaska. Lee felt that if he could be more self-sufficient in manufacturing and sales, he could become very competitive with "outside" and foreign firms.

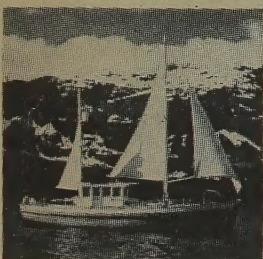
In mid-1977, Lee built his present facility south of Anchorage, which he shares with the Alyeska Candy Kitchen.

Last July, a process to etch molds for cultural marble was developed and the Alaska Mint Collection was added to Kiana's product line. The process has become extremely popular and has enabled Kiana to manufacture marble belt buckles, "limited edition" scenics, book-ends, pen sets and special order convention items.

If you ask Lee, Alaska is an ideal place to manufacture. As co-founder of Alaska Manufacturers Association, he sees their goal as identifying manufacturers in Alaska and encouraging others to give the state a chance.

For the future, Lee wants to continue to develop new product lines, improve old ones and open new market areas. He has already broken into the Japanese gift market with a unique foam ice chest. The chest was designed for the Duty Free Shop at Anchorage International Airport.

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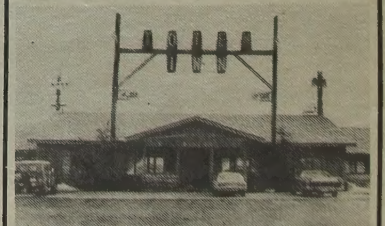
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THE SUN THAT NEVER SETS—The midnight sun makes a low arc over a river horizon in this Alaskan scene. Providing it's not cloudy, the sun can be seen at

midnight in northern Interior Alaska from June 17-24. One good place to view the phenomenon is Eagle Summit, about 100 miles north of Fairbanks on the Steese Highway. (News-Miner photo)



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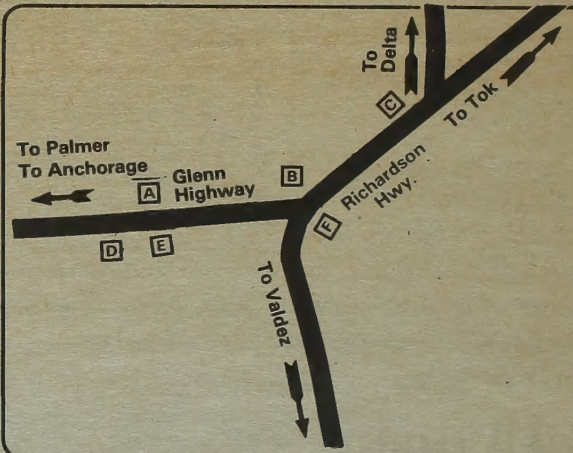
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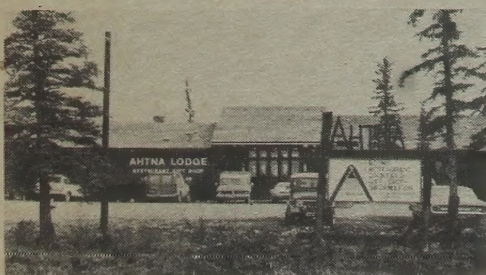
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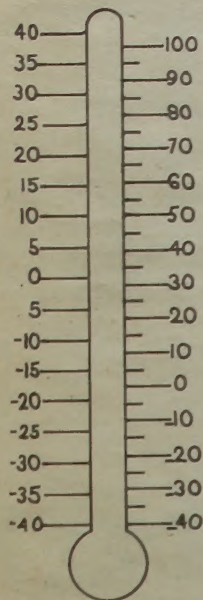
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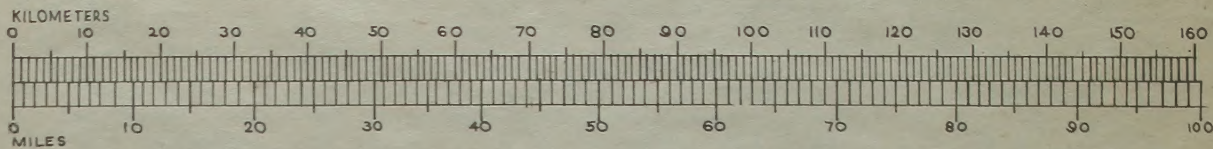


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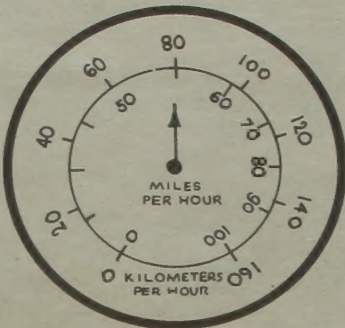
Metric conversions for travelers



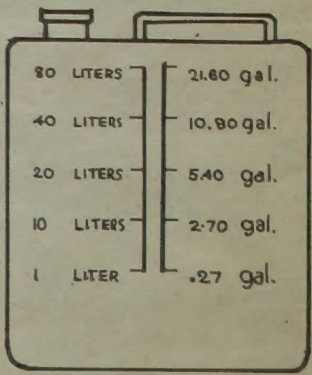
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This year merchants along the Glenn and Richardson highways are sponsoring the first annual Copper Valley King Salmon Derby. They are offering

\$500 for the largest king salmon and \$100 for the largest grayling caught within the limits of the Copper River drainage.

The derby begins June 1 and ends

July 31. Fishermen can register by purchasing a \$2 ticket from any local business. With the ticket comes a set of rule and hints on how to catch the big ones.

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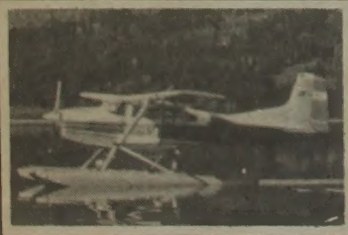


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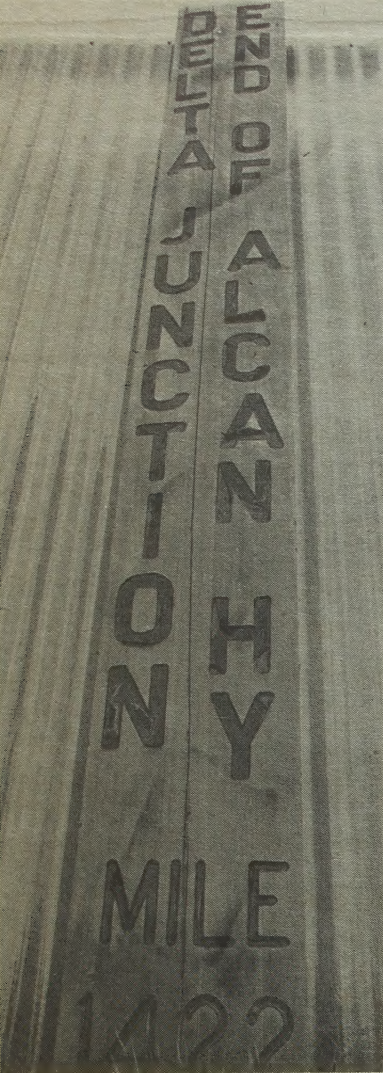
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THE END—The Delta milepost marks the end of the Alaska Highway.

Delta boasts a bit of everything

Bison, barley and the trans-Alaska pipeline are some of the surprises awaiting travelers of the Alaska Highway when they arrive at Delta Junction, the official northern end of the highway.

A community of about 2,000 persons that lies at the junction of the Richardson and Alaska Highways, Delta Junction is often windy, lying at the base of a natural funnel.

The town offers travelers such facilities as motels, trailer courts, campgrounds, restaurants, a shopping center, post office and bank.

Delta is one of the finest agricultural areas of the state with an infant barley project and fields of rapeseed and other grains.

There is the potential for use of 60,000 acres for grain production, and currently Delta farmers have planted about 6,500 acres with hay, barley, oats and brome grass.

If a traveler is lucky, he may get a look at part of

Delta's bison herd of about 300 animals that wander on a newly established range of 77,000 acres.

At one time Delta was called Buffalo Center because in 1927 bison were transplanted there from the Lower 48.

The trans-Alaska pipeline crosses the Alaska Highway at Delta Junction, then follows the Richardson Highway south to Valdez.

Delta is graced by two rivers: the Delta River which flows from the south paralleling the Richardson Highway, and the Tanana, which crosses the highway seven miles west of Delta and winds its way westward past Fairbanks to the Yukon.

The town's commercial center lies along the highway, but the residential areas are off the main road. The Chamber of Commerce has a visitor center and will give a traveler a certificate for making it to the end of the highway.

Keep your car in good repair

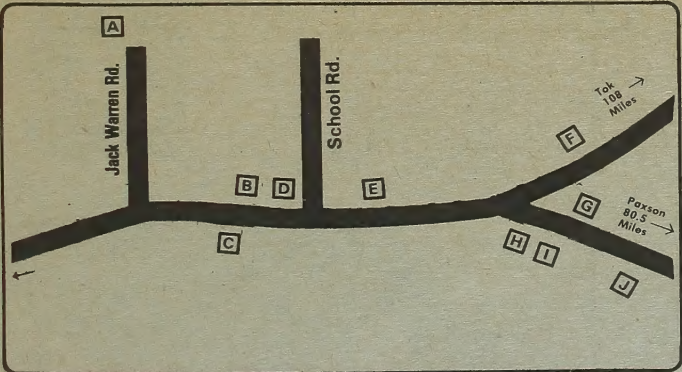
Traveling in Alaska is not all the same as it is in the Lower 48. Although Alaska is one-fifth the size of all the other states put together, it only has a little more than 6,000 miles of roads, and most of these are clustered near population centers.

Services on Alaskan roads can be few and far between, so it's up to the motorist to make sure his vehicle is in good running order before he leaves the cities.

Many roads, especially side roads off the state highway system, are not paved. They're constructed to secondary standards with a gravel surface.

junction

delta

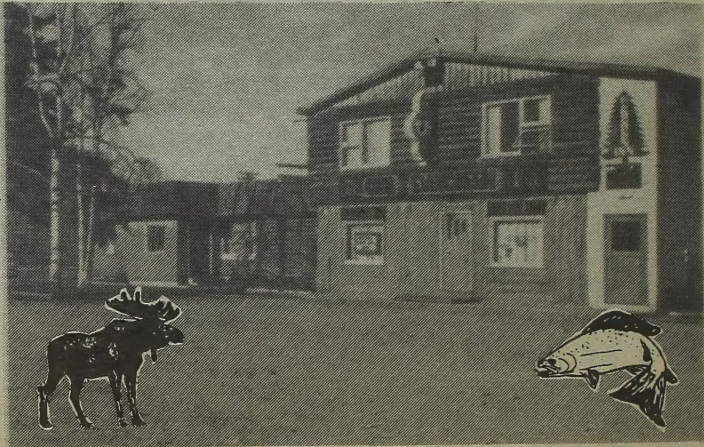


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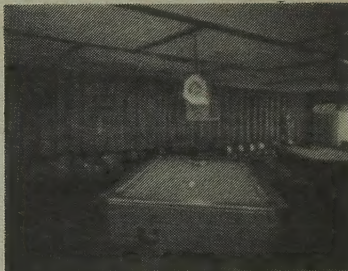
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WAVES OF GRAIN—A farmer tends his field of barley at Delta, the end of the Alaska Highway and one of the finest agricultural spots in the state. (Staff photo by Eric Muehling)

Please don't feed the animals

There are two cardinal rules about animals while you're visiting Alaska: don't touch and don't feed. During the summer, it's not unusual to see young animals, such as moose calves or bear cub which may appear to be lost or deserted.

Feeding wild animals is a misdemeanor in Alaska.

TRAVEL and LEARN
While Touring
Alaska

The Summer Sessions at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, has designed an Individualized Learning Program for the visitor to Alaska who wants to visit the state informed and appreciative of the places that are seen. The Travel and Learn program enables students to study various aspects of the state as they travel through the Great Land. Course packets are available in Geography, History, and Journalism.

These packets contain study guides and other information which help students to shape their individual Travel and Learn plan. The Geography program consists of five packets each focusing on a different area of Alaska. Students may earn one credit for each area studied. The other two programs, Journalism and History, consist of one packet each. In these programs, students may earn up to 3 credits in each area.

For those not interested in college credit, rather in personal enrichment, any of these courses may be taken for audit. This does not affect the course content, simply no grade will be issued.

GEOGRAPHY 193 1-5 CREDITS

The travel package in geography is designed by an Alaskan geographer to help the more serious traveler with a better understanding of the geography of Alaska which he visits. It requires some reading, pre-trip preparation and study, observation and note-taking along the way, and a written report upon completion of the proposed travel. The program is flexible enough to accommodate the students traveling in any part of Alaska.

HISTORY 193: STUDIES IN ALASKAN HISTORY 1-3 CREDITS

Students travel and see the historical aspects of Alaska firsthand. While traveling the student takes notes and submits a paper of his/her studies upon completion. The State is divided into three areas by means of transportation. Students wishing to study more than one system may submit a separate report for each.

JOURNALISM 193: PHOTOGRAPHY 1-3 CREDITS

Students are given a chance to see and photograph Alaska for credit. The student travels to various regions in Alaska and takes photographs which are submitted for evaluation and credit. Subjects may include wildlife and wilderness, peoples of Alaska, industry, recreation, etc.

To register or obtain more information regarding any of the Travel and Learn packages, call or come by the Summer Sessions Office, Room 114, in the Eielson Building on the Fairbanks campus. 907-479-7021.

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Santa Claus' home

Bustling North Pole welcomes travelers

North Pole isn't filled with igloos, eskimos or polar bears. That is, not the North Pole 12 miles down the Richardson Highway from Fairbanks. It's home for about 800 people, although perhaps 15,000 area residents who are scattered about the woods say they are part of the North Pole area.

Incorporated in 1953, the town was named to attract a toy manufacturer to the area, which is located half way between Eielson Air Force Base and Fairbanks. But North Pole instead got an oil refinery; the only one in Interior Alaska. It manufactures home heating oil, jet fuel and is looking at gasoline production.

Being the first stopping off point for Alaskan crude oil isn't the city's only claim to fame. Santa Claus does live here, and most visitors stop in for a chat in his brightly colored home on the Richardson. S.C., alias Con Miller, is one of the town's founders, and answers letters from all over the world written to Santa Claus, c/o North Pole. Some of

the more fascinating ones are pinned to the wall in his newly expanded store. He'll also let about 10 visitors park their trailers or RVs behind his house in the woods at no charge. The only rule is that they be self-contained. You can draw water alongside the house.

Another camping area is in a small city park, just past North Pole's new post office on Fifth Street. There, by the way, you can request North Pole's very own cancellation. Last year the city was the scene of one of two national Christmas commemorative stamp sales.

The city park/campground is posted for tent camping only. Large RVs have to park in the gravel lot on Fifth Street. There are seven tent places with tables and a fireplace. The campground has water and restroom facilities, and is near one of North Pole's more fun attractions, the ubiquitous Trading Post.

Owners Ruth and Lucius Cunningham built this amazing business from an original \$3 and a nose for bargains. It's one of the last of the old cracker barrel stores; really a collection of add-ons, and a central gathering place for "the locals."

It's said in North Pole if you can't find it in the Trading Post, you don't need it. The most fun thing about the place, however, is the Sunday auction the



CRACKER BARREL STORE—Lucius and Ruth Cunningham mind the store at the North Pole Trading Post. The Cunninghams have owned the general merchandise store since 1954 and carry everything from plumbing equipment to Alaskan ivory.

(Staff photo by Eric Muehling)

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Cunningham's hold. Everything from rabbits in cages to soup and through nuts is seen on the block. It's good entertainment just to watch, but you'll find yourself getting "sucked in" to the activity if you're not careful.

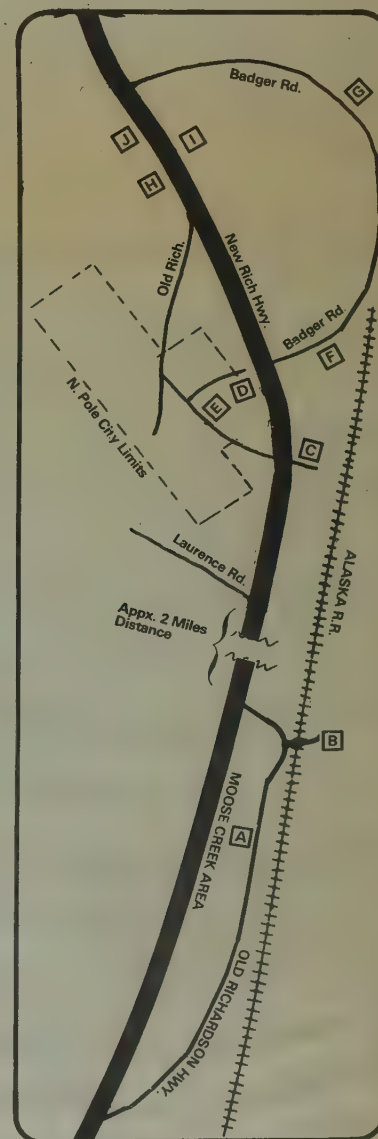
Another must in the North Pole area is a visit to KJNP Radio. Housed in a collection of log homes with sod roofs, and located one-half mile behind the Chamber of Commerce cabin off the Richardson, King Jesus North Pole may be the most famous of the area's attractions. Staffed entirely by volunteers, it spreads the Christian Gospel in four languages; Athabaskan Indian, Inupiat Eskimo, Russian and English, and reaches all of Alaska, northern Canada, Siberia and parts of Scandinavia. The area around the station is a beautiful place to take pictures of the traditional sod-roofed cabin, and tours of the facility are available.

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*and Moose
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Chena recreation area is prime camping country

Camping, fishing, river running and hiking are all highly accessible sports and unusually rewarding in the Chena River Recreation Area. More and more visitors to Alaska are getting into the "wilderness experience" by a trip along Chena Hot Springs Road.

The area is spindled on 30 miles of the road, and stretches for 254,000 square acres on either side. The road, which will be paved this summer, gives ready access to the river from several bridge crossings, and most people prefer the wide gravel bars for camping, canoe launching and fishing, because of their mosquito free atmosphere, but the state will be working on a 25-space campground at the second bridge crossing this summer. It won't be complete until next season, but there are latrines there and at several other points along the road.

Some of the best sport grayling fishing in the state is located here and on other area rivers, a few of which are hardly fished at all because they are not so accessible. But if you're willing to work for your fish, the East Fork, West Fork and Angel Creek are said to hold good populations of really big grayling. White fish are also seen here, and it is possible to see salmon spawning in season.

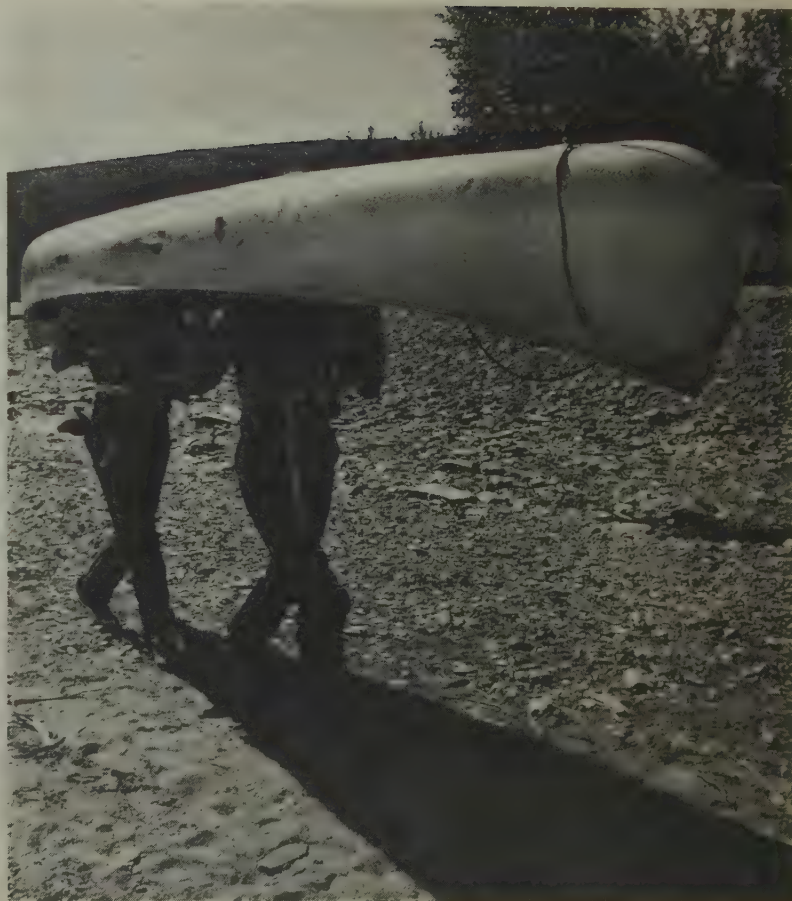
There are some pockets of private land along the road, so visitors are asked to respect private property signs. These are old homesites.

The third bridge is the standard put-in point for canoeists and rafters, since that is where the East Fork joins the Chena. But it is possible to go farther up the road to start a trip in early spring high water. Trips of one-half hour to several days are possible. It takes about a day to float all the way from the 45-mile marker to Fairbanks. Be careful of "sweepers." They are trees that tilt out horizontally over the current where the river has washed under their roots. They are hard to evade once your craft has floated too close, and the penalties range from uncomfortable to tragic. Be sure to carry life vests, sunglasses and extra paddles.

Because of all the old sloughs, it's possible to see a lot of moose, and some with twin calves, along the river. Black bear, and sometimes grizzlies are also seen.

Some of the easiest alpine hiking in the Interior is also located in the area. Many are attracted to the Tors—craggy spires seen on high slopes on the right hand side of the road. "Frost wedging" is the main cause of the tors, which are considered geologic proof that central Alaska was not covered with glaciers during the last glacial period.

Alpinists find the unearthly rock spires an interesting challenge, although they aren't easy to get to. Far Mountain is also a challenge to get to, but provides a panoramic view of the entire area.



CANOE TREK—A pair of canoeists hoists their craft and heads out for a day of river running. The Chena River Recreation Area near Fairbanks also offers visitors such "wilderness experiences" as camping, fishing, hiking and even mountain climbing.

(News-Miner photo)



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Daily News - Miner

"America's Farthest North Daily Newspaper"

Hot springs hosts unique resort

By MARILYN DEPEW
News-Miner Correspondent

When did you last regret telling your friends about a favorite fishing hole or campground because after the word spread the place became a lot less enchanting?

Many Alaskans came to this "Great Land" to escape what they felt was the overcrowded, paved-over existence in the "Lower 48." Although it doesn't appear that Alaska will have the wall-to-wall development seen in some states, largely because of the amount of federally controlled land here, some Alaskans feel that what land is available may become like the scene of the spoiled fishing hole.

One group thinks it's found a way to preserve their favorite spot and yet share with others its uniqueness. Of course, only time will tell if they are successful, but in the meantime a visit to the Chena Hot Springs Resort is a great way to see how some Alaskans feel about the land they love.

The resort is about 65 miles from Fairbanks, and the trek up Chena Hot Springs Road has been typically Alaskan—unpaved, that is—up until this year. Plans are to pave it this summer. The road also runs down a 30-mile corridor in the Chena River State Recreation Area, which holds many of its own rewards for the camper, fisherman and canoeist.

"Discover the secret of the sourdoughs," "Come watch the grass grow," "Promise her anything . . . but give her Chena Hot Springs," are some of the come-ons for visitors in low-key, old-timey brochures prepared by the Chena Hot Springs Group, the Alaskans who own the resort.

"Crowds at the springs? Well, no, only sometimes," another fact sheet answers itself. It goes on to insist that the development plan for the springs allows many people to use facilities on the 400-acre site with infrequent contact.

Some Alaskans are flying in to the gravel runway to enjoy the quiet wilderness experience at the springs both in summer and winter. Numerous cabins have been built near the springs and in the mountains on land that has been leased rather than sold in an effort to preserve the quality of the environment.

The resort can be a number of experiences for the visitor, but the foremost experience has been enjoyed by Alaskans since the beginning of this century.

First reported by Felix Pedro, the prospector responsible for the original Fairbanks gold rush, the springs rapidly became a health spa for miners sore from bashing about the bush in search of the bright gold metal. It was homesteaded in 1906, and all mineral and surface rights were transferred to the present owners in 1977.

In fact, visitors still pan the local streams and report flecks of gold in just about every pan. The owners say that both uranium and gold are probably present in economic concentrations, but they have decided to forgo development of the minerals to preserve the scenic beauty of the area.

Early miners (and some hardy Alaskans even today) considered sitting in a warm mudhole fun, probably because it was so cold much of the year, and they didn't have to chop wood to get warm. Also, in 1912 the medicinal qualities of the water were likened to the famous springs, Felsenquelle at Carlsbad in Bohemia by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Knowing a good thing when you see it has always been an Alaskan attribute, and because about 200,000 gallons of water a day at 156 degrees heats the area, it has been used for spaceheating as well as being diverted from its original source (oddly called Cold Creek Springs), for resort use in man-made pools.

Owners say the exact geothermal

mechanism of the springs is unknown, but it's under study and may be used some day for other energy uses. Right now it heats a swimming pool and several "hot tubs," some of which are fitted with whirlpools for those that managed to overdo the local trails.

In winter, the glass enclosure around the pools has ice crusted on it, and skiers say a long soak while laughing at the ice is the height of luxury after a hard slog up the mountains.

Presently the predominant kind of skiing at the resort is crosscountry, although a couple of the down slopes would easily be converted to downhill ski areas, and may be some day.

Besides watching the grass grow in summer (and it does grow fast in 24-hour light), there are volleyball and badminton courts, one of which converts to ice skating in winter. Croquet, softball and the other standard outdoor activities of hiking, goldpanning, berry picking and river running are popular, along with shutterbugging the local flora and fauna.

Camping is available although there are no hook-ups or dump stations for RVs. The overnight camping fee is \$4.50 for two people, plus .50 for each additional person. Weekly rates are available.

As in most parts of Alaska, the fauna are big drawing cards for visitors. There are several "resident moose" who prefer to drink from the warm springs, and occasionally wander through the "downtown" area of cabins. Coyotes, beaver and muskrat, lynx and wolverine, ptarmigan, grouse, varieties of waterfowl, and of course the snowshoe hare and ubiquitous mosquito abound.

Brown or grizzly bears are also seen along with the standard black variety, especially during berry picking season in late August. Remembering wilderness rules about bears is a good idea, as he feels he is ruler of all he surveys.

River running includes rafting, canoeing and kayaking and trips of one day to a few weeks are possible on the local rivers, most of which are accessible from Chena Hot Springs Road. Being prepared for wilderness survival should be stressed for interested visitors, however.

The Saturday type of hiker/climber will find the area an interesting assortment of various kinds of country. "Terrible Tussoks" and "Horrible Hummocks" are a part of low level tundra in the area, but exploring the microclimate created by the springs will reveal a wide variety of ferns, wildflowers and wild berries. For the more ambitious alpinist, Far Mountain at 4,694 feet and Chena Dome at 4,421 feet provide panoramic viewpoints of the surrounding territory.

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Fairbanks founded by accident

Fairbanks is 78 years old this summer, a town that got its start by accident along the banks of the Chena River.

Merchant E.T. Barnette was headed upriver in 1901 with a \$20,000 boatload of goods when he had to stop for winter near where Cushman Street and First Avenue now intersect.

A small monument marks the spot. For a run-down of historical sites in the downtown area, see "Ghosts of the Gold Rush," a \$1 walking tour of Fairbanks compiled by the Tanana-Yukon Historical Society. It is available at the Chamber of Commerce.

The Lavelle Young, a 150-foot-long wood-burning steamer, could not ascend the Tanana River past the sandy shallows called the Bates Rapids, so Barnette asked Capt. Charles Adams to try to bypass the rapids by taking the Chena River upstream. The Chena empties into the Tanana a few miles downstream.

But the steamer ran out of water on the Chena and Adams dropped Barnette in the wilderness.

About a year later, Felix Pedro, an Italian prospector, found gold near a site now marked by a monument at about 16 Mile Steese Highway.

Barnette decided to remain and found a city. The town got its name when he agreed to a request by federal judge James Wickersham to name it after his political benefactor, Sen. Charles Fairbanks of Indiana, a powerful Republican.

Wickersham eventually moved his courthouse to Fairbanks, a big plus for the town, and built on a

plot donated by Barnette.

Today a street and an elementary school are named after the founder of Fairbanks, who disappeared in Mexico after a bitter controversy over what happened to the money in Barnette's bank when it went bankrupt.

Barnette was tried and found innocent of all charges except for a minor charge of falsely reporting the condition of the bank.

The lifeblood of Fairbanks was supplying the miners with the goods and equipment they needed. In 1905 some \$6 million worth of gold was taken from the mines north of Fairbanks in the general direction of the Steese and Elliott highways. The population grew to 2,500.

But the gold soon began to run out and the town entered one of its periodic declines in fortunes. By 1920 gold production in the Fairbanks district dropped to \$500,000.

But the 1920s also saw the completion of the Alaska Railroad, and the mining industry got its second wind with the arrival of dredges and draglines for a more intensive type of gold mining.

The last gold dredge in the Fairbanks area shut down in 1964, a victim of rising operating costs and the unchanged price of gold.

In recent years, the price of gold has skyrocketed, and a major increase in gold mining is expected this summer.

But most of the activity will be individual miners working their claims.

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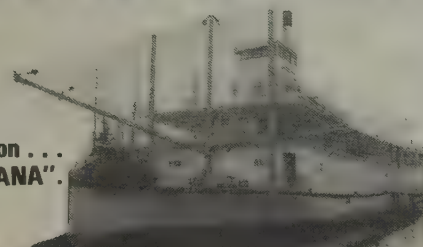
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Fairbanks is where it's happening

Visitors to Fairbanks, winter or summer, find a dazzling array of events of all kinds. Clubs, groups, sporting events, you name it, we got it. Here's a selection of the summer activities which are designed as much for visitors as for Fairbanksans.

- June 21—Midnight Sun Baseball.

The best baseball beneath the midnight sun is played by the Alaska Goldpanners. Composed of top U.S. college players, the Fairbanks team takes advantage of the long daylight hours on the summer solstice by playing nine innings without artificial light. The game begins at 10:30 p.m. at Growden Field on the corner of Wilbur Street and lower Second Avenue.

To get tickets for the game, which always draws a big crowd, call the Chamber of Commerce.

- June 21-22—Yukon 800

This annual riverboat race covers 800 miles on the Chena, Tanana and Yukon rivers from Fairbanks to the village of Galena and back. The starting point and end can be viewed at Pike's Landing on the way out of town.

Pike's is off Airport Way just past the Anchorage highway turnoff. The race begins at 3 p.m. and usually finishes around 1 p.m. the next day.

- June 21-22—Summer Solstice Festival

The annual solstice festival begins with at noon on the solstice with an arts and crafts fair, games, and live music from bluegrass to baroque. The summer fun lasts until midnight both days.

This year there will be an alternative energy fair, volleyball and other games such as "dump the chump," and lots of food. The festival will be in a field at Peede and Brock roads off the



FRONTIER PARK—The 227-foot-long "Nenana," which for 21 years steamed the Yukon River before being abandoned in

1954, rests in permanent dock in Alaskaland's frontier setting.

(News-Miner photo)

Richardson Highway. For more information call the Solstice Inc., at 479-8179.

- July 20—Gold Discovery Run

Runners unite and run this 17-mile race from the Felix Pedro Monument on the Steese Highway to the Chamber of Commerce on First Avenue.

The race commemorates the Italian miner who struck pay dirt in the hills around Fairbanks in 1902. For more information about the race contact Tom Wickwire of the Running Club North at 908 Smythe Street.

- July 22-27—Golden Days

The annual celebration marks the discovery of gold around Fairbanks.

The days are filled with activities such as sourdough pancake breakfasts, gold panning, costume contests, a children's parade and the grand parade on the 26th downtown.

A roving "jail" travels around town to incarcerate for a few hours those who haven't purchased their Golden Days buttons or who are not costumed in turn-of-the century garb. For a small fee, warrants are issued for arrests.

For more information on the schedules, warrants and fun call the Chamber of Commerce at 452-1105.

- July 31-August 2—Eskimo, Indian and Aleut Olympics.

Muktuk-eating, seal skinning, finger

pulling, and greased pole walk will be just few of the events at the 17th annual Native competition. The games commemorate the traditional, century-old Native games played in the Arctic.

The three nights of competition will be in Patty Gym at the University of Alaska. Tickets can be bought in advance at the Chamber of Commerce.

- August 13-17—Alaska State Fair

Exhibit halls crowded with vegetables, quilts, home-made jellies, wild mushrooms and carved ivory make up just a small part of the offerings of the 49th annual Interior fair.

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Fairbanks offers frontier flavor

By JANE PENDER

If you're interested in the tastes as well as the sights and sounds of frontier Alaska—you're in the right place. Fairbanks cherishes its traditions—a mix of Victorian, gold rush and wilderness. Together they combine to form a nostalgic blend of hearty hospitality hard to find elsewhere.

You'll find modern interpretations of frontier-style food and atmosphere in many places. Take the Pump House, located 10 minutes from downtown Fairbanks on Chena Pump Road. The building was remodeled into a restaurant combined with a Victorian "saloon." It was once part of a huge system of pumps, sluiceways, ditches and flumes which pumped water from the Chena River to the gold fields at Ester, about 10 miles from Fairbanks.

But now, it's become an atmospheric restaurant which you can reach by road, by float plane, by boat. Its saloon is furnished with Victorian chairs and couches, and its bar was built from pipe which remained when the pump house went out of business. In its sunny, pleasant atmosphere you can watch the river with its many boats, including the sternwheeler "Discovery II."

And, when it comes time for lunch or dinner, you'll enjoy the family-style meals, brought to your table on large platters—and with seconds in keeping with the hearty old tradition.

Another place with a similar, though more rustic atmosphere of the old mining days is the Cripple Creek Resort in Ester, a short drive down the George Parks Highway from Fairbanks. Here, old mine buildings have been converted to a restaurant which features both buffet and full-service meals. The emphasis is on Alaska-style food—biscuits with tart Alaska blueberry jam, and Alaska sea food, such as halibut, salmon and crab.

You'll enjoy the old-time atmosphere of the village itself with its log cabins and many trees. And you won't want to miss the sawdust-floored Malemute Saloon, filled with memories of old times. Malemute emcee Don Pearson recites from the pages of Robert Service at 9:30 and 11:30 every evening.

Thirty miles from Fairbanks on the Steese Highway is another old-time mining camp which has been converted into a popular restaurant. This is the Chatanika Gold Camp, a collection of buildings which once housed gold miners during the heyday of mining. Its bunkhouse now contains a rustic dining room from which you can see the huge

old iron cookstove, still in service for the preparation of hearty Alaskan-style meals.

You see traces of this same romantic past at Alaskaland, where many of the old log houses once occupied by early day Fairbanksians are located. Here, too, is The Sandbar, a restaurant which occupies the saloon of the old riverboat "Nenana," which once plied the Tanana and Yukon rivers. Now in drydock, the sternwheeler offers the feeling of the past with its original woodwork and its breezy decks.

Just across from the "Nenana" is the Palace Saloon, another old-style watering hole in the frontier tradition. Sawdust covered floors, round tables, an old oak bar . . . you step into yesterday when you visit the Palace Saloon.

If you like the big sound of a pipe organ, there's another spot in Fair-

banks you must visit: Steak 'n Pipes. This family restaurant, located on Turner Street, a short walk from the Chamber of Commerce log cabin downtown.

Here, every evening, and on Sundays at noon and again in the evening you can hear the full sound of Fairbanks' own magnificent theater pipe organ. This organ once brought music to the old Empress Theater, which was located on Second Avenue. That theater has been gone a long time, but the organ was saved and now delights another generation of Fairbanksians and visitors.

Fairbanks cherishes its exciting and colorful past, but it's also surprisingly cosmopolitan. Want to visit Switzerland? You can get there in a few minutes from downtown Fairbanks on Airport Road. There, you will see a magnificent rock castle, like those of Europe, with battlements and a fountain. Inside, it re-creates the at-

mosphere of medieval Europe, with panelled dining rooms and continental cuisine.

For a bit of San Francisco, sample the hearty soups and interesting sandwiches at Gate 5 Chowder House on Third Avenue. If you like Greek food, dancing and music, there's the Goldstream Okta several miles out of town on the Goldstream Road.

If Chinese food interests you, there's Chinese and American fare at the Tiki Cove at the top of the Polaris Building which also provides a splendid view of the city. Or, for spicy Honan Chinese food, visit China Gardens in the Chena View Hotel.

Mexican, Italian . . . all are here, along with a nostalgic touch of the old south, Alaska style. Try southern style Bar-B-Q—wood cooked—in an Alaskan Diamond Willow lounge, at Sweets, 636 28th Ave.

(Jane Pender is a Fairbanks writer and News-Miner columnist.)

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UA is state's center of learning, research

By DAN JOLING

Perched on the hill just west of the Fairbanks city limits, offering a dandy view of the community and the Alaska Range, is the University of Alaska, the state's center of higher learning.

Though second in enrollment to the Anchorage campus, Fairbanks houses the school's central administration and is its principal research center. The 2,250-acre campus surrounds two lakes and 35 miles of cross-country ski trails.

As a tourist attraction, the university's new museum is probably the main draw. But there are other things to see.

The Fairbanks campus is divided into two sections—the main campus and the West Ridge, site of a host of research facilities.

North of the plaza area on the main campus is the Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, which contains more than 750,000 volumes and specializes in collections related to Alaska and the

Arctic. The library is open all summer from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, subject to change.

Connected to the library by the Regents Great Hall is the Fine Arts Complex containing a 1,072-seat concert hall and a 480-seat theater.

The campus bookstore is just west of the Fine Arts Complex, in Constitution Hall. The bookstore offers a wide selection of UA T-shirts, mugs and other school souvenirs.

The southwest corner of the main campus is the center of sport activities at the university. The Patty Athletic Center includes a gymnasium, swimming pool, rifle range and indoor ice arena which opened last fall.

Next door is the Beluga building, an air-supported dome that can house a rink or tennis courts. The university offers interscholastic competition in men's and women's basketball, cross-country skiing, and rifle, men's hockey and women's volleyball.

Up the hill on the West Ridge is the new museum and most of the campus research facilities. The school's 17 research institutes spent an estimated

\$37 million in fiscal year 1979, about 30 per cent of the whole statewide university budget.

Largest is the Geophysical Institute, a world leader in polar and arctic geophysics, studying such things as permafrost, northern lights, ice, climate and cloud physics. Other institutes include agricultural sciences, marine sciences, northern educational research, water resources and arctic biology.

The last brings to campus créatures of the north rarely seen in Fairbanks—musk oxen and reindeer. A drive down Yankovich Road to the musk ox farm could produce a glimpse of one of the creatures. Drive north on Farmers Loop, on the east border of the campus, to Ballaine Road, and turn left. About a block west on Ballaine, turn left onto Yankovich Road.

A farm reflects the University of Alaska's roots as a land grant university. The decision to locate in Fairbanks was made by prominent Alaskan James Wickersham, who came north in 1900 as a federal judge and served six terms as the territory's

congressional delegate from 1909-1921.

Before 1966, no university buildings were constructed anywhere else.

Fairbanks was chosen by Wickersham in 1915, seven years before the school's doors opened. At that time Anchorage was a tent city set up as headquarters for construction of the Alaska Railroad. Juneau, the most populous town, hardly seemed appropriate for an agricultural college, considering the lack of farming in Southeastern. The fact that Wickersham was a founding father of Fairbanks probably didn't hurt in getting the school located here, either.

Wickersham's opponent for congressional delegate in 1914 was Valdez lawyer Charles E. Bunnell.

In 1921 it was Bunnell who was named the first president of the university. Bunnell had become a judge, like Wickersham, after the latter defeated him for the congressional seat. Despite Wickersham's efforts, Bunnell took his new job Dec. 7, 1921, and the doors to the university opened Sept. 18, 1922, with the president, his secretary, six faculty members—and six students.

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Alaskan artifacts get modern home at university museum

By JO ANNE WOLD

On a clear day you can see the Alaska Range from the entrance of the new \$6.4 million University of Alaska, Fairbanks Museum which opened in May. Inside you can see Sydney Laurence's Mount McKinley painting in the small art gallery with 40 paintings by Laurence, Ted Lambert and E. Ziegler. The canvases depict Alaska's romantic past of sourdoughs and dog sleds, cabins and creeks, and unspoiled Native life. This group represents only a small part of the museum's more than 400 paintings and lithographs by significant Alaskan artists.

The entrance to the main exhibit area is guarded by the 8-foot brown bear which as become the museum's mascot. "The displays are not complete," said museum director L.J. Rowinski whose staff has had the monumental task of moving out of the old building and into the new one. "We will be continuing to work on the displays. Our main objective has been to get open as quickly as possible."

The exhibit space is divided into geographical areas rather than into specific categories such as birds, minerals, botany and so forth. Within the areas, which includes Southeast, Southcentral, Interior, arctic coast and the Aleutians, will be the people, the botany, the natural history, the birds and the mammals of that location.

For example, in the arctic coast area is a bowhead whale skull and nearby is an umiak to show how the Eskimos hunted and what they were hunting. Display cases, custom made of oak by museum craftsmen, hold Eskimo beadwork and parkas.

"Our museum is unique in its focus," Rowinski said. "It focuses on Alaska and the related north. In addition, we

are developing research collections and doing research in particular areas to enhance the collection. This is an academic museum which is part of a university system."

This is the first time in the museum's history that the entire staff and collection has been under one roof, and the first time the museum has had a building designed especially for their purpose.

There is no firm date on the founding of the museum. It began in the late 1920s as a case of objects in the office of former university president Dr. Charles Bunnell. When the collection outgrew the case, it was placed in a room until it acquired the name museum.

The bulk of the early material was provided by Otto Geist, pioneer Alaskan archaeologist, paleontologist and naturalist who secured for the university one of the largest Eskimo archaeological collections in the world.

One year Geist delivered to the museum three quarters of a ton of Pleistocene mammal material, including a good series of superbison. He is also responsible for securing a collection of Eskimo relics including ivory carvings of almost every type of whale known to the St. Lawrence Island Eskimos.

It is for Otto Geist that the new museum is named. He had his roots in Bavaria and emigrated to the United States in 1910, arriving in Alaska 15 years later.

On a yearly average, 80,000 people visit the UA museum. The summer hours are daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. There is no admission fee.

(Jo Anne Wold is a Fairbanks writer and News-Miner columnist.)



ARCTIC DISPLAY—Sightseers to the University of Alaska's new museum size up a bowhead whale skull exhibit in the arctic coast display area. The display also features an Eskimo harpoon and piece of baleen.

(News-Miner photo)



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Alaskaland hosts slice of the frontier

By JUDI SENIURA
News-Miner Correspondent

Alaskaland is on the verge of a major overhaul and some of those changes will be visible this summer. Visitors to the centennial park will find the Gold Mine Valley back in operation, the Native Village once again representing Alaskan heritage, and concessionaires dressed in period costumes.

Gold Mine Valley will be the site of a salmon bake concession, housed in a new structure now under construction. The authentic mining artifacts will be cleaned up, the stamp press put into operation and visitors will be encouraged to try their luck at gold-panning.

The Native Village will be revived so that once again, patrons of Alaskaland will be able to experience Alaskan native culture. The houses in Native Village represent the full range of Native living in Alaska, and demonstrations will show the hunting skills, creativity and recreation of those peoples.

Concessionaires will be dressed in period costumes celebrating the gold-mining days at the turn of the century. At present, they are being versed in their particular area so that they may serve as sources of information.

Another new addition to Alaskaland this summer will be the pilot house of the Lavelle Young, the famous boat instrumental in the founding of Fairbanks. It will be placed in Bartlett Plaza after being restored to its original condition.

There are many other things to see and do in Alaskaland.

• **The Harding Car**—This perhaps is the best place for the visitor to begin. The actual Alaska Railroad passenger car which once carried President Warren G. Harding from Anchorage to Fairbanks, houses the information center for the 40-acre park.

• **Civic Center**—This community center houses an exhibition space,

theater and art gallery. The center, which may be upgraded and enlarged this summer, features a wide variety of Alaskan artists, craftsmen and performers as well as many special events.

• **Crooked Creek Railroad**—For a quick once-over of the park, take a ride on the Crooked Creek and Whiskey Island Railroad. The train is a replica of an 1885-vintage train and runs on narrow gauge rails, which were used extensively in the early days of the state.

• **Gold Rush Town**—A copy of turn-of-the-century-Fairbanks and composed of historical buildings moved from the city. Everything from churches to sporting houses are found here, depicting the moral and the not-so-moral side of Alaskan pioneer life. Of special interest to Gold Rush Town visitors is Pioneer Hall in which musical revues from the Gay '90s, melodramas, dancing and special events are held.

• **The Big Stampede**—An exciting stop for the history buff is The Big Stampede, adjacent to Pioneer Hall. Here, seated on a revolving platform, the viewer is presented with a narrated pictorial program depicting the many who came to this area in search of gold. The 15 paintings were done by Alaskan artist C. "Rusty" Heurlin. The narrator is Ruben Haines, Alaskan radio commentator and story teller.

• **Steamer Nenana and Palace Emporium**—The 227-foot long "Nenana," built in 1933, steamed the Yukon for 21 years before being abandoned in 1954 on the banks of the river. For the past 13 years, that historical boat has been docked at Alaskaland, where visitors can take advantage of the restaurant, bar and VIP club as well as see the workings of the steamship. In close proximity is the Palace Emporium where one can enjoy a night of entertainment in typical turn-of-the-century fashion.

• **Wickersham House**—The Alaska

State legislature appropriated \$10,000 for the purpose of restoring this house with authentic furniture to duplicate the way it looked when the famous Judge and his wife lived there. While antique enthusiasts will stop here, the aviator buff can enjoy the nearby Air Transportation Museum which houses several antique aircraft.

Besides the historical and cultural excursions, patrons may also take advantage of a quiet walk through Wilderness Park, or ride the bike trail which weaves through Alaskaland. Children will enjoy the playground, which is being spruced up and cleaned up for the summer. For those who wish a safe, but close-up view of Alaska's fierce grizzlies, two of these species may be found in the wildlife refuge, along with black bears and wolves and smaller wildlife.

At present Alaskaland is at the crossroads of its past and its future. It was established in 1967 as a centennial project celebrating the 100th anniversary since the state was purchased from Russia.

A major natural flood devastated the park shortly after opening day and dampened much of the enthusiasm which had resulted in the multi-million-dollar community center.

In the ensuing years Alaskaland was subject to fluctuating interest and apathy, but it is now the center of a determined endeavor to create a park for use by Fairbanks and area residents as well as tourists.

"We're going to polish up the whole park and make it the kind of place which can provide interest and activity to the people here and to tourists," said Mildred Matthews, chairman of the city-appointed commission which directs the management of Alaskaland.

A master plan for the park's revitalization has recently been completed which proposes such things as fitness trails, complete revamping of the children's play area, numerous

directional and information signs and restoration of existing park features such as Gold Rush Town.

The general plan is to provide more activities for visitors and to restore the park to the historical emphasis on which it was founded.

If the master plan is accepted its proposals could be completed by 1984. A major change which may be seen this year is the construction of an aurorium and exploratorium in the Gold Dome, formerly Seward Hall. The roof of the dome will become a replica of the northern astral skies complete with aurora borealis. The exploratorium will provide opportunity for young visitors to delve into the world of science, possibly done in conjunction with the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska.

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Sternwheeler cruises rivers near Fairbanks

Sternwheeler riverboats that once crowded the docks on Fairbanks' waterfront during the gold rush days are history now, but visitors to Fairbanks can relive that period with a ride on Alaska's only remaining stern-wheelers, "Discovery I" and "Discovery II."

The "Discovery II," owned and operated by Capt. Jim Binkley and his family, each day travels 20 miles on the Chena and Tanana rivers. The trip offers passengers a glimpse of Alaska's past and its contrast with the present. Its slightly smaller predecessor is pressed into service when traffic or water conditions require.

If one had to choose a guide into the world of riverboats and life on Interior Alaska's waterways, it would be hard to find better guides than the Binkley family.

Born in Alaska to a riverboat captain, Binkley has been offering river tours to Alaskans and tourists alike since 1950. His wife serves as hostess on the tours and plays a prominent role in the business. His two sons also are riverboat skippers.

The "Discovery" trips, which include a detailed narrative, began in mid-May and are scheduled based on demand. By June 1 regular runs begin at least once a day and continue through September. Each trip takes four hours and includes complimentary donuts and coffee.

The riverboat, which can carry 335 persons, leaves the Dale Road area in the afternoon, travels down the Chena River to where the Chena meets the larger Tanana River, then continues down the Tanana.

Besides getting an unparalleled view

of the wide river and its densely forested banks, passengers of the "Discovery" will be able to view a "bush pilot's" riverbank airstrip—the kind that is in use throughout the wilderness in Alaska.

The sternwheeler passes by an old gold mining camp and places where some of Alaska's famous sled dogs are quartered during the summer along the cool river banks.

One of the highlights of the trip is where the passengers debark from the "Discovery" for a tour of an authentic Indian trapline camp. Here, visitors will be able to get an idea of the bush life of the Athabaskan Indians and a close-up look at Indian fish wheels. The camp tour is narrated by Indian and Eskimo guides who explain aspects of their culture.

Throughout the trip the Binkley family presents a detailed narrative about life, both past and present, in Interior Alaska.

Binkley arrived in Fairbanks as a young man from southeastern Alaska to attend the University of Alaska, and in 1950 bought a 25-passenger cruiser that he used for five years for river tours.

In 1955 he built a riverboat, called "Discovery I," which is still used alongside the larger "Discovery II" when there is passenger demand or when the river level is too low for the larger boat.

In 1969, he bought the "Discovery II," which originally was used as a ferry before the bridge at Nenana was built.

It's advisable to make reservations for this popular cruise by calling 479-6673.



RIVERBOAT CRUISE—Sightseers get a glimpse of a fishwheel as the sternwheeler "Discovery" cruises down the Chena River. Riverboat Capt. Jim Binkley and his family conduct the daily summer tours of the Chena and Tanana rivers, providing detailed narratives on such sights as an old gold mining camp, a bush pilot's airstrip and an Indian trapline camp. (Alaska Airlines photo by Bob and Ira Spring)

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The frosty face of an Interior winter.

(News-Miner photo)

Winter is for optimists

By MARILYN DEPEW
News-Miner Correspondent

You have to be an optimist to be an Alaskan—especially in winter.

From the first snowflake in early October to the last icy puddle in late May, the cheechako (someone who's never spent a winter here) must take care to maintain the proper mental attitude, or "breakup" will mean more than the ice going out on the rivers.

Optimism is believing sourdoughs who say winter is better than summer. Never mind that old saw about "sourdough" meaning someone who doesn't like living here, but hasn't the dough to leave.

Optimism is believing you are attractive when buried in 16 layers of clothes and white "bunny boots," which make you look (and walk) like a duck.

It's also the belief that shoveling snow and chopping wood are legitimate winter exercises for keeping in shape. Of course, in spring the bathing suit literally explodes that theory.

Winter optimism is the belief that throwing a glass of water out the window and watching it freeze before it hits the ground is fun. It's being firmly convinced that because the sun rose at 10 a.m. and set at 2 p.m. you'll get more sleep.

Being optimistic means learning to crosscountry ski, and believing that clawing your way up an ice slope to fall down the other side is a mind expanding experience.

Also it's believing outdoor enthusiasts when they tell you it's possible to camp at below-zero temperatures. And then trying it.

It's supposed to be fun sitting around

a hole in a lake at 20 below zero, dangling a line down it and waiting for a nibble.

It's putting ice skates on for the first time in years and doing three-point landings around a homemade rink. It's letting your neighbor dump you in snowbanks off his snow machine, and admiring motorcycle ice racers with lug screws in their tires for traction.

Optimists say curling is an interesting sport, and those people aren't crazy for sweeping the ice with a broom to suck a lead stone forward a bit.

It's believing ice fog is something good because it will keep Alaska rural, and that's the way you want it to be. Anyway, it's a good excuse for not keeping an appointment you didn't want to go to in the first place.

Optimism is believing you can do something about politicians if you go to enough public meetings because you live in a state that's not overcrowded.

It's knowing that in spring the check-book you dropped in the snow will "turn up" with all the other stuff we call "Alaskan Daisies."

It's believing the sound of your neighbor's 27 sled dogs howling at night is beautiful, and loving their joyous leaps as they are prepared to race.

Most of all, it's knowing that birch trees bent double in genuflection to the cold moonlight, the aurora dancing before the stars, and the air crackling behind you as you walk are unique and wonderful. That somehow you are better for the whole experience, and particularly better than those "Outside" in the "Lower 48." It's looking forward to embellishing your tales a little the next time you go "out."

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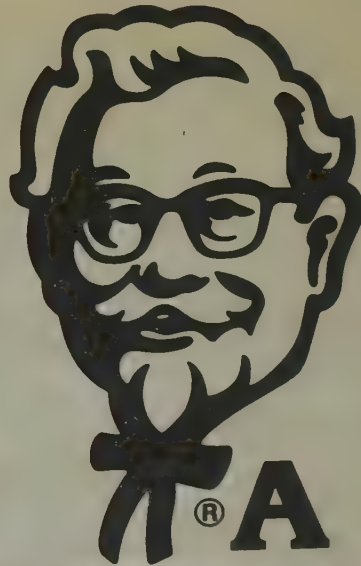
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Most people who come to Fairbanks do so for daytime activities. One can find a spectacular view of North America's tallest mountain, ride Alaska's farthest-north railroad and feel the pioneer spirit.

But after a day of sightseeing, Alaska's second-largest city offers a variety of nighttime entertainment.

Following is a list of some of Fairbanks' nightspots and evening entertainment:

Drinking and dancing establishments:

Bernie's Place, 4625 Airport Way—Live rock 'n roll and disco bands.

The Cabaret, 410 Second Avenue—Blend of rock, new wave rock and disco.

Captain Bartlett Inn, 1411 Airport Way—Adult music in a variety of styles.

Clinkerdagger, Bickerstaff and Pett's, Bentley Mall—Middle-of-the-road and easy listening entertainment.

Club Alaskan, 901 Steese Highway—Variety of music, usually country and easy listening, by a live band.

Fairbanks Feed & Fuel, 205 Old Richardson Highway—All-around bands playing pop, country and rock.

Goldstream Okta, 2.5 Mile Goldstream Road—Bellydancing. Shows are Tuesday through Saturday at 8:30 and 10 p.m.

Howling Dog, 11.5 Mile Steese, Fox—Live bands ranging from rock 'n roll to balladeers. Volleyball out back during the summer.

Ivory Jack's, 1.5 Goldstream Road—Easy listening music such a piano players and guitarists.

King's Kup Disco, 305 Noble Street—Live rock 'n roll and disco bands.

Malemute Saloon, Nenana Highway, Ester

Palace Saloon, Alaskaland, Airport Way—Old time piano music, a can can show in the old Alaska style during the summer months.

Pump House, 1.3 Mile Chena Pump Road—Emphasizes easy listening, folk or easy rock with live bands.

Sunset Strip, .5 Mile Richardson Highway—Usually country and western, often specialized with entertainers such as impressionists of Elvis Presley.

Switzerland, 4510 Airport Road—Recorded disco music.

Traveler's Inn, 813 Noble Street—Bands playing modern and rock music.

Walt's Hoedown Center, 2017 Cushman—Square and round dancing Fridays and some other nights.

Dinner theater:

Laughing Stock Company Ltd., Fairbanks Inn, 1521 S. Cushman—The dinner theater performs several plays during the summer, usually old-fashioned melodrama. Shows are six nights a week.

Theater:

Crystal Palace Players, Crystal Palace Dancehall and Emporium, Alaskaland—Alaskan melodrama nightly with a Saturday children's production planned.

Movies:

Lacey Street Theater, 504 Second Ave.—commercial theater.

Goldstream Twin, 1855 Airport Way—commercial theater.

Alaskaland Cinema, Alaskaland Civic Center Theater—specializes in old movies, Mondays through Wednesdays.



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Fairbanks has lively arts scene

By JO ANNE WOLD

The good old summertime in Fairbanks is good with the sound of music—and most of it is free.

Visitors can attend weekly Mainstage concerts and the Time Out at Noon series to take advantage of this bargain of the season.

Three years ago the locally-based Alaska Association for the Arts introduced the idea of free summer concerts and it's been in high gear ever since.

Bob Vaughn, executive director of the association, said that last year 6,400 people attended the concerts held at the Alaskaland Theater and the Noel Wien Library Auditorium. The shows go on again this summer, and it won't cost the patrons a penny. Sohio Alaska-Petroleum is picking up the tab.

Starting in June and continuing through August there will be a full-length concert every Thursday at 8:15 p.m. at the Alaskaland Theater for Mainstage. The Time Out at Noon series is a shorter format designed to give a musical repast to people on their lunch hour. The setting for that is the intimate concert hall at the borough library, located on Cowles Street across Airport Way from Lathrop High School.

Groups featured in concert include the big and brassy Alaska Brass with their diverse repertoire ranging from Bach to Scott Joplin well executed by two trumpets, a French horn, a tuba and a trombone. In contrast is the intimate piano stylings of Ron Inouye and the serene vocal renditions of Sally Smith who is more widely known as a state representative from Fairbanks. Inouye, active in community events, is an education specialist at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Fifteen performers from the Fairbanks Light Opera Theater (FLOT) will give a showcase concert with selections from the Broadway musicals and operettas staged in past seasons. Their full length presentations during the winter are always a sell-out.

Fairbanks has an impressive roll of outstanding musicians who have received acclaim beyond the boundaries of Alaska. Two of those musicians are James Johnson, pianist, and mezzo soprano Suzanne Summerville, both instructors at the UAF. Johnson, a child prodigy who grew up in South Carolina, went on to receive his doctorate from the University of

UAF plans lectures for visitors

Each Wednesday at noon the University of Alaska, Fairbanks Special Events Committee will sponsor a free hour-long lecture of interest to Fairbanks visitors. These lectures will be held on the lawn in front of the university library on the UAF campus.

Starting in mid-June and continuing through mid-August, this series will

include a walking tour of the lower campus conducted by Bill Cashen who will talk about the various buildings and the people for whom they were named. Terry Vierek will talk about herbs and berries you can eat and where they can be found. The Fairbanks Light Opera Theater singers will give a musical showcase, and the UAF summer music camp band will give a concert.

Arizona and, in addition to an impressive list of prizes, he has made three recordings with London's Philharmonic Orchestra. Summerville studied voice in Germany, was a Fulbright Scholar, and received her Ph.D from Freie Universitat in Berlin.

A newly formed dance troupe, Dance Omnium, will perform ballet and modern dance on Mainstage. This troupe of eight are area dance instructors. There will also be performances by the Fairbanks Dancers, the Middle East Dancers and African Heritage Dancers.

For a change of pace there will be a noontime staging of John Lentine's Magic Show with Mr. Checkers, poetry

readings by Pat Monaghan and Ann Kacsur, and a full-length presentation on Mainstage of Leroy Zimmerman's Alaskan photography.

The Chong Family, four young sisters who came to Alaska from Korea with their parents in 1974, have a growing number of admirers of their mature and sophisticated style of playing. Front and center is 16-year-old Maria, a piano prodigy, who has won a number of competitions and given solo recitals at UAF. Her sister, Theresa, 14, plays the cello, and Jan, 10, and Rosa, 9, play the violin. The Chongs will present trios, duets and solos from the classical and Romantic period.

Seasoned performers as well as up

and coming young musicians will have an opportunity to play before live audiences this summer. Lined up are baritones and pianists; vocal duos in a mellow mood; a violin and piano duo; cello and piano; a piano solo, a woodwind recital, the Sweet Adelines barbershop harmony, the Renaissance Consort and a Suzuki concert.

Flyers detailing the complete summer schedule are available at area hotels, the Chamber of Commerce and the library. For more information on arts association activities, call 456-6485.

One of the liveliest of the arts this summer is the melodrama staged six nights a week by the Laughing Stock Company, Ltd., at the Fairbanks Inn. Tuesday through Sunday visitors can enjoy a dinner theater which starts at 7 p.m. Featured will be the classic "Under the Gaslight," which finds "our hero" tied to the railroad tracks in the face of an oncoming train—not an easy feat to achieve on a small stage.

A cast of 12 performers revive this mid-19th-century melodrama which has been set to music by the talented Jim Bell, who serves as pianist, choreographer and emcee. Bell, with numerous productions to his credit, has a master's degree in music and theater from the UAF.

(Jo Anne Wold is a Fairbanks writer and News-Miner columnist.)

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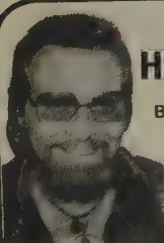
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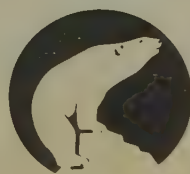


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NATIVE MASK—Thirty pieces of Alaska Native woodworking will be shown in June at the Alaskaland Bear Gallery as part of the Alaskamuet '80 Exhibition. The statewide juried competition features this beaver mask by Sam K. Fox of Dillingham. The mask is made from carved teak with ivory and baleen inlay and actual beaver teeth. The show also features a Nunivak dance stick and an octopus mask of alder.

(Photo by Charles Backus)

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Art galleries prepare shows

Fairbanks art galleries will be putting their Alaskan best foot forward this summer with shows reflecting the talents of area and statewide artists.

In June the Alaskaland Bear Gallery will feature a collection of 30 pieces of Native woodworking in the Alaskamuet '80 Exhibition. The carvings by Alaskans were juried by Peter Corey, director-curator of the Sheldon Jackson College museum in Sitka.

Two wood carvings by Fairbanksan Kathleen Carlo are of particular interest. Her three-dimensional mask received the Alaska State Council on the Arts Contemporary Art Bank Purchase Award.

Other pieces in the show include a Nunivak dance stick, a teakwood bear, berry bucket of bent spruce wood with ivory handle, an octopus mask of alder,

and a walnut owl with ivory eyes.

The show is sponsored by the Alaska Association for the Arts and supported in part by the Alaska State Council on the Arts and the Institute of Alaskan Native Arts.

Nationally-known photographer Phillip Hyde's collection of Mount McKinley color dye transfer prints will be seen July 2-30 at the Alaskaland Bear Gallery.

Opening in August at the Bear Gallery will be a one-man show of acrylic canvases depicting Fairbanks street scenes and area landscapes by David Mollett.

Admission is free at the Bear Gallery. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday from 12:30-8:30 p.m. and Sunday from 12:30-6:30 p.m. The gallery is closed Mondays.

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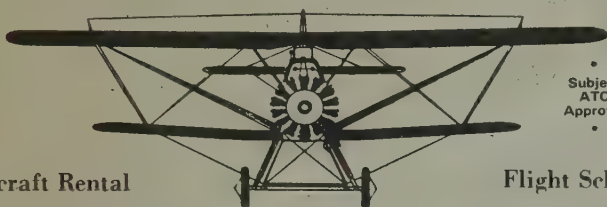


SUMMER SEASONING—1979 Alaska Goldpanner Dave Weatherman goes through his windup in a crucial game of last summer's Alaska World Series. Considered the finest amateur baseball team in the U.S., the Goldpanners recruit top college players for the summer.

(Staff photo by Eric Muehling)

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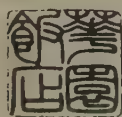
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Baseball is No. 1 under Midnight Sun

By KEITH OLSON
Sports Editor

With the possible exception of hunting and fishing, the No. 1 summer sport in Fairbanks is baseball.

Once the snow leaves in mid-April, the city comes alive with bats and balls, gloves and picnic coolers as Fairbanksans take to the diamonds like hungry bears take to a fish-filled stream.

Fairbanks offers a full scale of summer baseball including Little League, Pony League, Babe Ruth and American Legion, plus more than 120 softball teams in leagues ranging from junior high school through adults. The city regularly turns out top contenders for state titles in all divisions.

Fairbanksans, by nature, are more doers than watchers, and participants generally outnumber the spectators at most of those events. But when the local fans want to kick back and watch, most of them turn out at Growden Memorial Park to see what is generally considered the finest amateur baseball team in America—the Alaska Goldpanners of Fairbanks.

Goldpanner baseball had its start in 1960 as a team made up primarily of local talent and a handful of college recruits. Since then the program, governed by a 40-man board of directors, has gone to a full-scale recruiting program that annually scours the country for the top college players.

In their 20-year history, 55 former Goldpanners have seen at least limited action in baseball's major leagues, and since 1963 the club has averaged more than three big league players per summer.

(See BASEBALL, page 29)



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BASEBALL . . .

(Continued from page 28)

No other amateur summer baseball program in the country can match those stats.

The list of Goldpanners currently in the major leagues is impressive. Among the top names are Tom Seaver, Bill Lee, Dave Kingman, Craig Nettles, Steve Kemp, Andy Messersmith, Rick Monday, Jim Sundberg and Dave Winfield. Others include Floyd Bannister, Chuck Baker, Jim Barr, Bob Boone, Pete Redfern, Don Reynolds, Bruce Robinson, Gary Sutherland and Steve Swisher.

Pro scouts are regular visitors at Goldpanner games. Gordon Goldsberry, a scout for the Philadelphia Phillies, said a players' statistics over a full college season plus a summer campaign of the quality of the Goldpanners could be viewed in a similar light with a full season of minor-league professional ball.

Each of the players is provided a summer job and lives with an adopted "Goldpanner Family," making him an active member of the Fairbanks community during the summer. Many of the players also conduct baseball clinics for local youngsters as well as young people from many of Alaska's villages.

In 14 of their 20 previous seasons, the Goldpanners have capped their summer schedule by entering the National Baseball Congress Tournament in Wichita, Kan., the World Series of amateur baseball. Fairbanks won three straight national titles in 1972-74 and repeated again in 1976. In their last seven NBC appearances, the Goldpanners have finished no lower than second.

This summer another team made up of college players has been started in North Pole, 15 miles south of Fairbanks on the Richardson Highway. The Goldpanners and the North Pole Nicks will play 15 times over the course of the summer and the winner of that season-long series will be invited to this year's NBC Tourney.

In addition to playing each other, the Goldpanners and Nicks will host series against semi-pro teams from Madison, Wis.; Beatrice, Neb.; El Camino, Calif., and a new team formed in Anchorage called the Cook Inlet Bucs.

A highlight of the Goldpanners' season is their annual Midnight Sun Game played on June 20, the longest day of the year. On that day the summer sun barely dips below the horizon, and the game starting at 11 p.m. continues through the midnight hour without benefit of artificial lights.

For the past four years, the Goldpanners played in the four-member Alaska League against teams from Anchorage, Palmer and Kenai. Anchorage and Kenai left the league this year, while the nucleus of the Palmer team shifted to North Pole, leaving the league with just two active members.

The Goldpanners and Nicks are bringing Madison, Beatrice, El Camino and Cook Inlet into Fairbanks to round out their summer schedule in the absence of a larger league campaign. The action brings the Goldpanners back nearer to their independent days when the entire schedule was made around touring semi-pro clubs.

Alaska League baseball 1980 summer schedule

Following is a composite schedule for the Fairbanks Goldpanners and the North Pole Nicks for the 1979-80 semipro Alaska League baseball season. All home games will be played at Growden Park. All games begin at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

June 10—Nicks at Eureka, Calif.; June 11—Nicks at Eureka, Calif.; Panners at Hawaii; June 12—Nicks at Eureka, Calif.; Panners at Hawaii; June 15—Madison, Wis. Badgers vs. Nicks; June 16—Madison, Wis. Badgers vs. Nicks; June 17—Madison, Wis. Badgers vs. Panners; June 18—Madison, Wis. Badgers vs. Panners; June 19—Madison, Wis. Badgers vs. Nicks; June 20—Cook Inlet Bucs vs. Nicks, Madison, Wis. Badgers vs. Panners, 11 p.m.; June 21—Cook Inlet Bucs vs. Panners (7 innings), 5:30 p.m.; Madison, Wis. Badgers vs. Nicks; June 22—Cook Inlet Bucs vs. Nicks, 1 p.m.; Panners vs. Nicks; June 23—Madison, Wis. Badgers vs. Nicks; June 24—Madison, Wis. Badgers vs. Panners; June 25—Madison, Wis. Badgers vs. Panners; June 26—Nicks vs. Panners; June 27—Panners vs. Nicks; June 28—Nicks vs. Panners; June 29—Panners vs. Nicks; June 30—El Camino Warriors vs. Panners.

July 1—El Camino Warriors vs. Nicks, 5:30 p.m.; El Camino Warriors vs. Panners, 8:15 p.m.; July 2—El Camino Warriors vs. Nicks; July 3—El Camino Warriors vs. Panners; July 4—Nicks vs. Panners, 2 p.m.; El Camino Warriors vs. Panners, 5 p.m.; July 5—El Camino

Warriors vs. Nicks, Panners at Cook Inlet Bucs, TBA; July—6 El Camino Warriors vs. Nicks (2), 2 p.m.; Panners at Cook Inlet Bucs; July 7—El Camino Warriors vs. Panners; July 8—Panners vs. Nicks; July 9—Nicks vs. Panners; July 10—Panners vs. Nicks; July 11—Cook Inlet Bucs vs. Nicks; July 12—Cook Inlet Bucs vs. Nicks, 5:30 p.m.; Cook Inlet Bucs vs. Panners, 8:15 p.m.; July 13—Nicks vs. Panners; July 15—Panners vs. Nicks; July 16—Beatrice, Neb. Bruins vs. Panners; July 17—Beatrice, Neb. Bruins vs. Nicks; July 18—Beatrice, Neb. Bruins vs. Panners; July 19—Beatrice, Neb. Bruins vs. Nicks; July 20—Beatrice, Neb. Bruins vs. Panners, 2 p.m.; Nicks vs. Panners; July 21—Beatrice, Neb. Bruins vs. Nicks; July 22—Beatrice, Neb. Bruins vs. Panners, Nicks at Cook Inlet Bucs; July 23—Beatrice, Neb. Bruins vs. Panners, Nicks at Cook Inlet Bucs; July 24—Beatrice, Neb. Bruins vs. Panners; July 25—Beatrice, Neb. Bruins vs. Nicks; July 26—Beatrice, Neb. Bruins vs. Panners; July 27—Nicks vs. Panners, 2 p.m.; July 28—Panners vs. Nicks; July 29—Nicks vs. Panners.

Aug. 1—Panners at Black Hills Macy's Titans, Nicks at Kamloops, B.C. Tournament; Aug. 2—Panners at Black Hills Macy's Titans, Nicks at Kamloops, B.C. Tournament; Aug. 3—Panners at Black Hills Macy's Titans, Nicks at Kamloops, B.C. Tournament; Aug. 4—Panners at Black Hills Macy's Titans, Nicks at Kamloops, B.C. Tournament; Aug. 6—One team will play in the NBC National Tournament in Wichita, Kan. while the other will play at the Seattle, Wash. Invitational Tournament.

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Keep an eye out for the wildlife

By DAVE JOHNSON

Alaska's wildlife is among the most unusual and diversified anywhere, and for the traveler, offers incomparable opportunities for seeing animals rare or absent in most of the Lower 48.

When, for example, was the last time you saw a musk ox? You can see musk oxen in Alaska, and, in fact, you won't even have to walk far from your car.

Musk oxen occurred naturally along Alaska's northern and western coasts, but died out during the last century. A 1930s transplant from Greenland to Fairbanks and later Nunivak Island off Alaska's southwestern coast provided the beginning for Alaska's present-day wild herds. The largest are on Nunivak and Nelson Islands near Bethel, and smaller herds are found along the western and northern coasts.

Today, about five wild musk ox (which are being domesticated) can be seen at the University of Alaska "musk ox farm" off Yankovich Road, northwest of town. The original residents of the farm were transported in the late 1970s to Unalakleet, near Nome, where they are being used for further domestication experiments.

At the time of this writing, the musk oxen were being kept some distance from the road, but were easily visible with field glasses.

REINDEER

There are now also reindeer at the musk ox farm, and are held nearer the road, and so are more easily visible than the musk ox. Reindeer are kept by some native herders in Alaska, mostly in the northwest section of the state.

Reindeer do not occur naturally in Alaska, and were imported in the late 1800s. Reindeer meat is easily obtainable in western Alaska, and the antlers are sold on Far Eastern markets.

Reindeer are about as close as most visitors will be able to come to their cousins, the native caribou. There are now nearly 300,000 caribou in Alaska,

but most are not easily seen from the road system. The largest herds in the state are in the arctic, with lesser herds found throughout the state except for the southeastern panhandle.

CARIBOU

Lucky travelers may see caribou near the Steese or Taylor highways in the Interior. Caribou are constantly changing their migration routes and centers of abundance, so the spectacle of thousands of animals crossing the Steese or Taylor highways in the fall is no longer the case, but small bands may be seen on occasion near both roads.

MOOSE

Another species that is quite a bit easier to see along Alaska's highways in the summer is the moose. Resident across most of Alaska except the Aleutians, most of Southeastern, and parts of western Alaska, moose are probably the most popular game animal with hunters and viewers alike.

Moose is a staple in the diet of many rural and urban Alaskans, but nevertheless, just plain watching moose must rank very high in the importance of wildlife in the state.

Look for moose in roadside ponds,

and watch especially for moose crossing the road. Adult moose may weigh a half-ton or more and can make a sizable dent in a vehicle. Be especially watchful as mama moose crosses the road because junior often brings up the rear.

McKinley National Park and other sub-alpine areas, such as the Denali Highway country are good places to watch for moose in more open countryside.

DALL SHEEP

Alpine country is also where Dall sheep are found in Alaska, and there are a few places where the highways come close to the mountains and provide viewing opportunities. In the Interior, sheep are often seen in summer just east of the Nenana River canyon bridge on the Parks Highway, north of McKinley Park. The park itself is also a good place to watch sheep, although it is often necessary to walk some distance from the road to see them well.

More adventurous visitors in early summer may want to hike to sheep licks. Dall sheep in Alaska annually visit these licks to provide them with the minerals they need all year long. All of the licks are accessible only by

hiking or aircraft charter or both. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Fairbanks can provide details on how to get to some of the licks.

BISON

Another form of wildlife most often seen from a distance in the summer is Alaska's largest, the bison. Bison lived in Alaska until about the time that Columbus landed in the West Indies, but died out as the climate changed the grasslands that once covered the interior of Alaska to the present day forests.

Today's bison in Alaska originate from a 1928 transplant from Montana to Delta Junction. The bison at Delta now number about 300. Transplants in the 1960s established three smaller herds near Glennallen and Farewell.

The bison spend their summers along the Delta River where they leave the Alaska Range and during the fall they move to the Delta area. Late summer or early fall travelers are often treated to the sight of bison crossing the road or feeding along the pipeline corridors near Delta.

Richardson Highway travelers in early and mid-summer should be able to see the bison on their summer range

(See WILDLIFE, page 31)

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WILDLIFE . . .

(Continued from page 30)

from an overlook at mile 241.5. The Department of Fish and Game maintains an interpretive sign at that point. From the overlook, the bison are about five miles distant, so a good set of field glasses or spotting scope is in order.

BEARS

Bears are animals that many would rather see through a spotting scope, too. Bears are found throughout Alaska except for the Aleutians, and come in three varieties: black, brown or grizzly and polar.

Black bears are rather secretive inhabitants of the forest, and even while rather common, are not often seen. Blackies tend to prefer the early morning and evening hours, and spend part of the day sleeping.

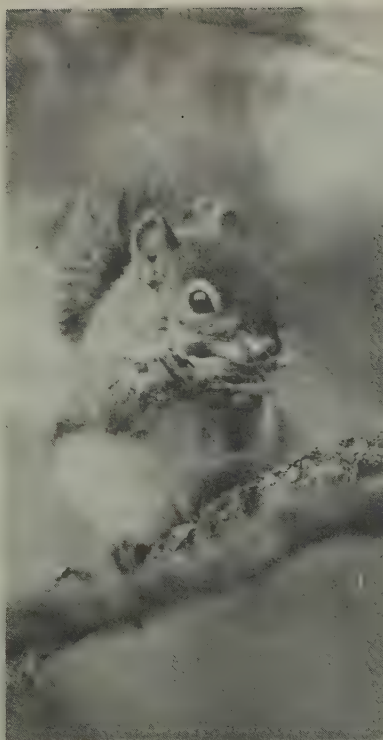
The best place to see grizzlies or brown bears is along salmon spawning streams, especially along the coast. Here in the Interior, grizzlies can best be seen above treeline.

Polar bears are a common resident of the seas off Alaska's north and northwest coasts. Eskimos still hunt the white bears for their meat and skins. They are not often found far inland.

WOLVES

The wolf is another widely distributed Alaskan. Alaska's wolf population is doing very well, and in fact, wildlife scientists believe there are now as many wolves in Alaska as there have been at any time in the last 50 years. Wolves are found in roughly the same distribution as their principal prey: deer, moose and caribou, and so are found nearly statewide.

Wolves are true wilderness creatures, so the opportunities for seeing them near the road system are remote. Wilderness travelers, on the other hand, especially in late summer or in the winter months, may at least hear the stirring melody of a wolf howl



CAMP ROBBER — Squirrels, such as this little guy who munches on a forest delicacy, are constant companions to Interior campers.

(News-Miner photo)

on overnight trips. Howling is most common during the breeding season in late winter, and least common while the animals are denning in early summer.

BIRDS

Alaska is home for several hundred species of birds in the summertime,

although in the winter around Fairbanks there are fewer than 20 species in permanent residence. One of the most noticeable, the ubiquitous raven, is most often found poking his Roman nose into garbage in the winter, but in summer is usually sampling sweeter, more natural fare further from town. They can be seen around the Interior year-round, however.

Alaska has the largest concentrations of bald eagles and the Chilkat River near Haines in the late fall is the scene of one of the most spectacular concentrations of birds anywhere.

Here in the Interior, bald eagles are found along salmon spawning streams and floating the thermals like their cousins, the golden eagles. The golden eagles spend more of their time in the hills in search of unwatched caribou or sheep calves, and marmot on the half-rock or ptarmigan under grass.

Early summer visitors may see breeding rock ptarmigan along the roads passing through the sub-alpine country. The males stake out a territory and then steadfastly stand their ground, leaving only to chase off other ptarmigan. The males can usually be approached quite closely, so long as the female does not fly.

Grouse and ptarmigan both go through cycles of abundance, and both seem to be moderately high this year. Grouse can most easily be spotted

along the roads in the fall as they come to pick up grit in the early morning.

Ducks are commonly seen in summer in roadside ponds in Interior Alaska. Fly-in fishermen will have ample opportunities to see waterfowl during a visit to the Minto Flats, west of Fairbanks, which is one of the more important waterfowl nesting areas in the region.

Smaller mammals and birds are less noticeable than other wildlife, perhaps, but fill the state with activity and song from south to north. Alpine country travelers will find the pika, a small rodent, in rockpiles above timberline; marmots, other small mammals and a wide variety of unusual birds in the tundra above treeline. Eagle Summit, 100 road miles northeast of Fairbanks on the Steese Highway is an excellent early summer stop for birdwatchers and high country hikers.

BEAVERS

In the lowlands, beaver ply the streams throughout much of Alaska. Quiet side streams of larger rivers often have beaver dams, and river travelers are often treated to sights of these large rodents busily repairing dams and foraging for food.

(Dave Johnson is a game biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.)

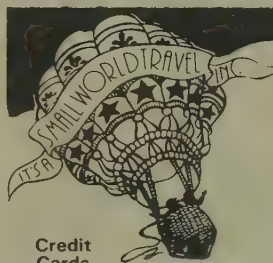


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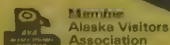
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Home of 'the High One'

McKinley Park camp-out a must

By SUE LEWIS
Staff Writer

Although to many visitors North America's highest peak remains an elusive wonder, shrouded by clouds or mist, Mount McKinley National Park offers a chance to see many other aspects of Alaska—Dall sheep, grizzly bears, barren-ground caribou and even the curious pica squirrel.

Alaska's Natives called the 20,320-foot peak Denali, meaning "the High One," according to the National Park Service. No other mountain in the world, not even in the Himalayas, rises so dramatically above its own base and stands in such lofty isolation over its neighbors.

The mountain is part of the Alaska Range, which stretches 580 miles across the lower third of Alaska.

White men have known of Mount McKinley since New York newspaper reports in 1897 that a gold prospector and mountain man, William A. Dickey, had discovered a peak higher than any he had seen before.

After he returned from the wilderness, Dickey named the mountain in honor of William McKinley, who was running for president. Twenty years later, Congress recognized the efforts of several men and designated the peak and surrounding mountains as Mount McKinley National Park.

The act creating the park was signed by President Woodrow Wilson in February 1917. It created a park of 1.9 million acres.

Visitors to the park today will find the bulk of it little changed from the early days.

There is only one road into the park, and only campers destined for one of the seven campgrounds in the park may drive on it. The National Park Service operates a system of free shuttle buses in the park.

Shuttle bus riders can expect to see plenty of wildlife, and bus drivers are cooperative in stopping for photographs or just looking. Or get off the bus, hike, picnic, or rest along the road, then board a later bus.

The first bus leaves from the east end of the park at 6 a.m. and the last one at 6 p.m., overnighing at the west end then returning on a morning run. Bus schedules are available at the park.

If the weather is fine, expect to see the mountain itself after driving some nine miles along the park road to the Savage River area. After that, the view is on-again, off-again, with the mountain visible from the Sable Pass area, the Toklat area, the Highway Pass area, and from Stony Overlook on. It can be seen from Wonder Lake and the Eielson Visitor Center.

One can get to McKinley park by driving the Parks Highway some 120 miles south of Fairbanks, taking the Alaska Railroad from its depot off Illinois Street in back of the Daily News-Miner, or riding a tour bus.

At the park, the McKinley Park Hotel offers hotel rooms and railroad car pullman compartments, plus railroad berths. Or bring your own bedding and stay in the park hostel, or bring camping gear and camp out.

The park's seven campgrounds no longer operate under the reservation system, and it's first-come, first-served. Register the morning you wish to camp at the Riley Creek Visitor Center for up to 15 consecutive days. The park service recommends registering before noon to get a choice of campgrounds, especially on weekends or holidays.

One campground is reserved for groups of up to 40 persons in no more than four vehicles, with a seven-day limit. Contact the park superintendent at P.O. Box 9, McKinley park, 99755, phone 907-683-2295 about that.

Wildlife tours through the park are available but usually require reservations and pre-payment. The tours leave daily at 6 a.m. and 3 p.m. and last eight hours. They cost about \$22 for adults and \$10 for children. Write to the McKinley Park Hotel, McKinley Park, Alaska, 99755 or call 907-683-2215.

Backpacking is popular in the park, too. Backpackers should plan to register at Riley Creek Visitor Center as soon as they arrive in the park.

There they'll be assigned to a specific zone in the park. The idea is to provide for a true wilderness experience by restricting the number of hikers in any one area.

Backpackers should be prepared to carry in all the gear they need, in-

cluding stoves for cooking, and plenty of warm clothes, since fires are not permitted in the back country. Litter must be carried out.

Park rangers offer free movie and slide programs, nature walks, discovery hikes, sled dog demon-

strations, children's hikes and camp-fire programs during the summer.

On Sept. 14 the Eielson Visitor Center will close, and on Sept. 20 the park hotel and the Riley Creek Visitor Center will close.



BAILING TIME—Rafters take advantage of a calm stretch on the Nenana River to lighten the load after a run through white water near Mount McKinley National Park.

(News-Miner photo)

Ride a raft down the wild Nenana

Staff writer David Ramseur and staff photographer Evan Bracken took a raft ride on the Nenana River from McKinley Village to Healy last summer. Their report follows. This year's rafting season is already in full swing.

By DAVID RAMSEUR
Features Editor

"We want to welcome you to the 'get wet' special," announces raft company owner and star oarsman Gary Kroll at a safety briefing just before take-off in the 38-degree, silt-gray Nenana River.

"You needn't worry about anything related to the raft," he says to a disbelieving group of passengers lined up along shore.

"But we have had people go in the water. If that happens, you'll gasp, so just exhale and you'll bob along and we'll pull you out of the water. But the way to avoid falling out is to hang on."

That's an appropriate introduction for the 4½-hour rubber raft trip we're about to take. Kroll operates one of two Interior rafting companies—Alaska Rafts—which is based at McKinley Village about seven miles south of the entrance to Mt. McKinley National Park. Both companies offer part-day and multiple-day rides and provide virtually all the equipment you'll

need for a churning journey down an Alaskan river.

The 17½-foot-long boats are the Cadillac of rafts, Kroll says, and make for a bumpy and exciting but safe taste of river running. The first part of the trip is so smooth, in fact, that a 2-month-old child holds the record for youngest passenger.

There is at least one advantage to the slow-moving water and evasive rowing of our guide during the first few miles. The scenery is magnificent with awesome rocky cliffs dropping into the 40-yard-wide river. On the horizon, slowly rising mountains climb into the clouds.

Several miles and a 20-minute rest stop later, the river picks up just before the Parks Highway crosses the Nenana. The water rushes over the rocks faster and faster until it roars. Two- and three-foot waves churn the silty river water in circles. There is no way to avoid them.

The raft buckles in the middle at a 60-degree angle. Water splashes over the bow, soaking the three riders clinging to the front section of the boat. The silt that has collected in the bottom of the raft sizzles and cracks, sounding too much like a leak.

"Yahoo!" yells Kroll, a natural kiddie camp counselor. The passengers in the front yell worse.

We all smile for the tourists hanging cameras over the bridge above. They look warm and dry.

But after a few minutes of coasting, the ride gets almost boring. The Twin Rocks, billed as the meanest part of the trip, loom ahead.

The raft suddenly takes a nose dive, digging into the froth. A wall of water reminiscent of "The Poseidon Adventure" crashes into the front of the boat. It collects about a foot deep in the bottom.

With an effortless twist, the river launches toward the next rock. Kroll's knuckles turn white against the oars as they flounder wildly. It's almost scary. Finally the river releases us and the raft bobs toward the next obstacle. A high similar to no other.

Until just before the trip ends, the river makes up for its previous nonchalance. At "the cable crossing," a narrow passage under a rusting metal basket that used to service the railroad line on the left bank, the river churns and bubbles for what seems like miles.

After a few more miles, the trip ends rather anti-climactically. We sail past the Healy Power Plant where the river is shallow and calm. For the first time on the trip, Kroll has to paddle to move the boat.

Alaskan firms outfit river running treks

If river running sounds like your type of fun, there are several Alaskan outfits more than happy to help you with daily trips. They include:

- Alaska Raft Adventures, Inc., runs two regular trips twice daily beginning at McKinley Village just south of the entrance to McKinley National Park. The 2½-hour trip to the Parks Highway bridge costs \$25. The longer 4-hour trip to Healy is \$35.

For information, in Fairbanks, write Box 73264, 99707 or call 456-1851. At McKinley, write Box 66, McKinley Park 99755 or call 683-2265.

- McKinley Raft Tours provides essentially the same trips as Alaska Rafts. They begin at 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. daily and go to the same places. The 2½-hour trip is \$21. The 4-hour trip is \$31. For information write Box 1605, Fairbanks 99707 or call 479-6023.

- Nova Riverrunners of Alaska runs a daily trip down the Matanuska River near Eagle River just north of Anchorage. The trip begins at Mile 79 on the Glenn Highway and finishes at Mile 66. Cost of adults is \$35; for children, \$17.50. The trip takes about four hours.

For information, write Box 444,

Eagle River 99577 or call 694-3750.

- Kenai Adventures runs two trips down the Kenai River, one of which empties into the Skilak Lake south of Cooper's Landing. The 5- to 6-hour trip begins at 10:30 a.m. daily from Sportsman Lodge, 56 Mile Sterling Highway, which is about two hours from Soldotna. Cost is \$46 for adults and \$25 for children under 12. A shorter version takes three hours and costs \$25 for adults and \$15 for children.

For information write Cooper's Landing, 99752 or call 595-1294 in Kenai and 337-5266 in Anchorage.

Lands issue divides Alaskans

By SUE LEWIS
Staff Writer

No other issue has so embroiled Alaskans—and the rest of the nation as well.

Dubbed by Time magazine as "The Battle for Alaska Lands," the lands issue continues to be hotly debated from the halls of Congress to the trails of the bush.

Alaska became formally involved in the lands issue when Congress adopted a bill in 1971 settling the land and money claims of Alaska's Natives.

The Native Claims Settlement Act included a section that directed the Secretary of the Interior to withdraw up to 80 million acres of land in the state for Congress to consider designating as national parks, forests, wildlife refuges and wild and scenic rivers.

The withdrawal of lands under section 17(d)(2) and what to do with them eventually came to be called the "d-2 issue." Although the withdrawal of lands under that section expired in 1978, many Alaskans still use that term to refer to continuing interest in designating Alaska lands for national conservation units.

When Congress took no action to designate national parks, forests or other systems before the withdrawals expired, President Jimmy Carter used a little-known law passed in 1906—the Antiquities Act—to designate 17 national monuments in Alaska, totalling 56 million acres.

Those monuments are administered much as national parks would be, with sport hunting and new mining activities prohibited, but subsistence hunting and other recreational uses permitted.

Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus also got into the act in 1978, and he set aside

56 million acres of land for three-year studies as conservation units. Then early this year he designated 40 million acres of that land as national wildlife refuges for 20 years.

Although environmentalists in Alaska and Outside have pushed hard for protection of large units of land in Alaska, many would prefer to have Congress instead of the administration do it. Groups such as the Sierra Club and Friends of the Earth, working through the Alaska Coalition, have continued to press for passage of legislation designating large units in Alaska.

Last year the House of Representatives passed a lands bill, HR 39, backed by environmentalists and sponsored by Arizona Rep. Morris Udall.

Since then, the Senate has been grappling with its own version of the legislation. Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens has pushed for passage of S 9, a version of the bill that closes fewer areas to hunting, permits more minerals and oil and gas exploration, and takes in less total acreage.

The state of Alaska has been behind Stevens' push for passage of that legislation.

The Senate is to consider it after July 21.

The lands issue still divides Alaskans in many ways. Sportsmen formed their own "Real Alaska Coalition" to push for a settlement that closes less land to sport hunting and trapping, that

provides that the state continue to manage fish and game resources, and that permits access for traditional uses of the land.

Businessmen, labor unions, and others formed Citizens for the Management of Alaska Lands to lobby for a settlement that would permit development of many of Alaska's natural resources while providing protection to the most outstanding areas.

The Legislature last year adopted a resolution seeking a settlement that met its seven consensus points:

- That the 56 million acres of Antiquities Act national monuments is unacceptable and the classification must be overturned;
- That all statehood and Native land entitlements should be expeditiously conveyed;
- That adequate access to state and private lands should be preserved;
- That the state should manage fish and game on all lands in Alaska;
- That land classification bound-

daries should be drawn so they don't "virtually destroy potential for utilizing known valuable resources;"

• That traditional land uses should be preserved;

• And that no more land may be designated in Alaska for conservation units.

Many Alaskans still apply those points as a test to any legislation proposed to solve the issue.

The state raises the issue of state's rights when it lobbies for an Alaska lands settlement. When Congress passed the Alaska Statehood Act in 1959, it promised Alaska 104 million acres of land and gave the state 25 years to select it.

But since then the state has received title to less than one-third of its land, and the numerous federal land freezes and withdrawals over the years have cut into the state's 25-year time period.

State lobbyists have said the state's right to land must be settled fairly before Congress carves up the state for conservation units.

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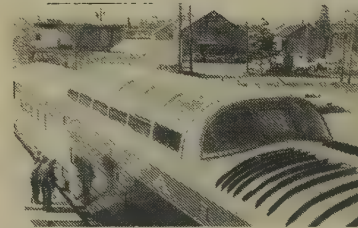
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Interior Alaska an angler's bonanza

By MIKE KRAMER

With hundreds of thousands of lakes and streams in Alaska's Interior, the would-be angler has only two problems: getting to the lake or stream and getting there at the right time.

The first of these problems has been neatly solved by the airplane—usually a float plane, for not only are there no roads leading to these waters, but airstrips are in short supply.

As a bonus, a small plane offers a close-up of Alaska's scenery and wildlife that is not obtainable from an automobile or jetliner.

The problem of timing is tougher to solve and is due to the migratory habits of many fish found in the Interior. Salmon, sheefish and arctic char may travel hundreds of miles during the summer.

Though they may be incredibly abundant at the right time, these fish may be totally absent a few days or weeks later.

Fly-in fishing trips may be arranged for lake trout (mackinaws), sheefish, arctic char and northern pike. Grayling, abundant in many Alaskan streams, can be found in streams in many of these fly-in areas.

Lake trout weigh up to 25 pounds, with 10- to 15-pound fish common in some waters. These fish usually frequent deep lakes and may be taken by trolling or casting spoons.

From Glennallen or Summit Lake a few dollars worth of flying will get you to Crosswind, Boulder, Landmark Gap or other trout lakes. From lodges on the Nebesna Road (lying between Tok and Slana) you can fly to Tanada and Copper Lakes, where grayling and red salmon abound in addition to large lake trout. Some of these lakes have boats, motors and lodging available.

For a more expensive trip, the large lakes of the Brooks Range can provide the fishing experience of a lifetime. Only a relative handful of anglers visit



TROPHY CATCH—Department of Fish and Game biologist Mike Doxey holds a 30-pound pike caught with a gill net in a lake near Fairbanks in 1977. (Fish and Game photo)

lakes such as Walker, Selby, Chandler and Shainin each year.

Fishing is usually excellent in these lakes throughout the open water period, July to September, and it is often

possible to catch and release a hundred pounds of lake trout and arctic char in an hour or two of angling.

Float planes may be chartered from Fairbanks or you can fly on commercial airlines to Bettles and charter beyond there.

The sheefish is perhaps the top trophy fish in the area, somewhat resembling a tarpon. It may weigh in at 50 pounds with fighting ability to match. Some hotspots for these fish are the Holitna River near Sleetmute in July and the Kobuk River from late June to mid-September.

On the Holitna, sheefish may be taken in early July by fly fishing, although the usual lures are spoons. Wien Airlines has a mail flight to Sleetmute and boats are available for rent.

The lower Kobuk River produces fish in late June, and in July anglers should fish in the vicinity of Kiana. In late July and August, fishing is best near Ambler. During late August and early September, the sheefish are above Kobuk Village.

It's best to fly commercially to Kotzebue, charter to a village and hire a local guide with a boat.

Yukon River tributaries offer sheefish in the Melozitna, Nowitna, Tozitna, Ray, Hess, Dall, Birch, Chandalar, Porcupine, Charley, Kandik, Nation, Tatonduk and Seventy-mile rivers. In the rivers between Stevens Village and the Delta, the best fishing is probably in late August and September. In the Upper Yukon tributaries, late July and August is best.

Arctic char, the far-north relative of the brook trout, can be found in rivers and lakes, with the largest fish and greatest concentration in lakes.

The Alaskan record char is 17½ pounds and specimens over 10 pounds are commonly found in some waters.

Perhaps the best char stream in the state is the Wulik River north of Kot-

zebue. The height of the char run of some 250,000 fish occurs during late August and September.

Charter planes are available at Kotzebue. Small- to medium-size spoons and spinning rods are standard gear.

Northern pike weigh up to 28 pounds in some Alaskan waters. Very good pike fishing is usually available throughout the summer a few air miles from Fairbanks, with waters such as East and West Twin Lakes and the Minto Flats favorites. Exceptional pike fishing also can be had in Tetlin Lake (charter from Northway).

Casting medium to large 'daredevil' spoons is the preferred angling method. Remember wire leaders or you may never land one of these toothy monsters.

No fishing trip to Alaska would be complete without at least a few hours with a flyrod at a grayling stream. A meal of fresh grayling cooked over a campfire is not soon forgotten.

Grayling are widespread in the Interior and most trout lakes also have good grayling fishing in inlet and outlet streams.

Grayling can be taken on light spinning gear and small spinners, but a fly rod is even more fun and usually more productive. Take along an assortment of dry flies—mosquitoes, black gnats, brown hackles and blue uprights.

For most fly-in fishing, a medium-action spinning or casting rod with 10- to 12-pound line is about right, although if your preference is for heavier or lighter gear, you'll not be alone.

For those restricted solely to highway travel, there is also fair to excellent fishing in many lakes just off the road system.

(Mike Kramer is fisheries biologist at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.)

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Alaska Native claims act a key issue

By MARGARET NELSON
Staff Writer

When the United States bought Alaska from Russia, the land itself was not bought, but only the right to tax and govern.

The U.S. government recognized at that time that the land belonged to the Native people who had always lived there. But while the right of the Natives to the land was recognized, the matter of giving Natives title to their land was ignored.

Native ownership of land in Alaska was not resolved for more than 100 years, until the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act in 1971.

The settlement act became a reality largely because of the work done by the Alaska Federation of Natives. The Natives felt that they owned the land and that every one else thought that they did, but it wasn't on paper.

Thus, in 1966 the Alaska Federation of Natives was formed for two reasons: to improve the condition of native Alaskans and to work for the claims settlement.

On Dec. 18, 1971, President Nixon signed into law the act that will continue to have far-reaching effects on the future of all Alaskans, both Native and non-native.

Basically, two things were settled by act. It gave title of 40 million acres of land to the Alaska Native people. They are receiving legal title to this land and money to pay for the land that the government needs or has allocated to people over the years.

The money is to pay for the 335 million acres that was taken from the Natives in previous years from federal acts, and is allowed to be paid over an 11-year period.

The act also provides that 12 Native regional corporations covering all of Alaska will distribute the money. The regional corporations were patterned after the regional associations that were formed for passage of the settlement act.

Of the 40 million acres of land granted under the act, about 22 million will go to the villages. The amount of land selected by each village will depend on its population.

Selection by the villages would amount to about 17 million acres. The rest of the 22 million acres would be divided among the regions.

The economic thrust of the act was three-fold.

First, section 17(d)(2) provided for the withdrawal of up to 80 million acres of unreserved federal lands for possible inclusion in national parks, national forests, wildlife refuge systems and wild and scenic rivers programs.

Second, section 17(c) prevented Native land selections within transportation and utility corridors withdrawn under existing authority of the Interior secretary. This effectively resolved the problem of Native land claims blocking the trans-Alaska oil pipeline corridor and construction of the line.

A third part of the act provided for a cash payment of about \$1 billion and for selection and other rights to what has amounted to about 44 million acres of lands, generally including both the surface and subsurface rights.

It was hoped that the act also would serve as a vehicle for the achievement of a degree of economic self-sufficiency, or economic independence of Alaskan Natives.

It also was hoped that the act might lead to more general economic development of rural Alaska. But trying to put the settlement into effect has influenced these expectations.

In a recent report by Olson and Associates, Dean Olson states that the economic implications of ANCSA has focused on two general concerns: the ability of the act to enhance individual economic well-being of Alaskan Natives, and ANCSA as a vehicle for rural development in Alaska. Olson said the results to date suggest that

neither of these objectives has been achieved.

But there are several other groups besides the Natives who are interested in Alaska's lands. Special interest groups are also lobbying for Alaska's lands.

Developers want as much land as possible opened for petroleum and mineral exploration and development.

Environmentalists want areas reserved for protection of wildlife and wilderness.

The state government is pushing the federal government to allocate the 103 million acres it promised to Alaska at statehood.

There are even special interest groups among the Native community lobbying for a chunk of the lands. For example, Natives want access to federal withdrawals for subsistence hunting. Natives also want the federal government to act more quickly in turning over land promised in ANCSA.

But because of the lack of clear policy for establishing easements on the lands, there have been several delays in transferring the land to the Natives or anyone else.

But perhaps the Natives' chief objection to the settlement act has been that it did nothing to protect subsistence lifestyles of the Natives.

Alaska's Natives have made it known that d-2 should protect their right to continue to live by hunting and fishing in the way of their ancestors. The Natives have since that time decided to use d-2 as a vehicle to nail down subsistence rights.

There are no instant answers to the continuing battle over Alaska's lands. There also is no doubt that the settlement act will have a continuing effect on Alaska's economy. Normal land and resource development cannot take place until land ownership has been established, which will take several years to accomplish under the timetable set out in the act.



EXTRA EFFORT—A contestant in the World Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Olympics strains to touch the fur ball dangling above his head in the two-foot high kick competition. The colorful games, set for July 31-Aug. 2 at the University of Alaska Patty Gym, draw hundreds of participants.

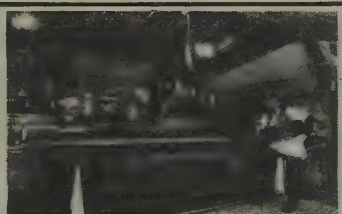
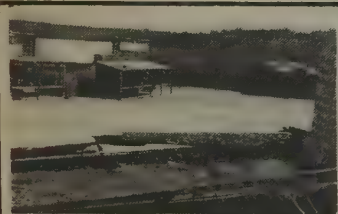
(News-Miner photo)

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Pipeline carries our energy lifeblood

By **DERMOT COLE**
Staff Writer

The trans-Alaska pipeline runs 800 miles from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez, carrying nearly one-fifth of the nation's domestic oil production to market.

About 1.5 million barrels of oil flows every day into storage tanks at Valdez where it is loaded on tankers for shipment to the West Coast and through the Panama Canal to the Gulf Coast. The three major owners of the oil, some of which is selling for up to \$30 a barrel now, are Standard Oil of Ohio, Atlantic Richfield and Exxon.

For Sohio, which owns about half of the oil at Prudhoe Bay, and to a lesser extent, Arco, North Slope oil production has helped produce record profits. But, says Sohio chairman Alton Whitehouse, "The pipeline is not a public works project."

He also says the company had nine lean years before Prudhoe Bay came into production and it borrowed \$4

billion to help develop the field.

Thanks to the pipeline, Alaska recently surpassed Louisiana's rate of oil production to pull into second place behind Texas, which produced about twice as much oil as Alaska in 1979.

Also thanks to the pipeline, oil is the state's biggest money industry and the chief source of revenue for the state treasury, which has ballooned with oil dollars at a time when most states are struggling to make ends meet.

In April the Legislature approved a law to abolish state income taxes for anyone who has paid them for three years, and to set up an income distribution plan to give all residents over age 18 an annual check for an amount equal to at least \$50 for each year they've been in Alaska since statehood.

At peak construction, some 20,000 workers, many of them from outside the state, were employed on the pipeline project, creating the un-

precedented boom in Anchorage and Fairbanks that you heard so much about during the mid-1970s.

The Fairbanks area is still feeling the effects of the pipeline, or at least its aftermath.

When the project ended, so did the jobs. Many workers left the state when they couldn't find work, but there are still many unemployed people in Fairbanks and the jobless rate was running about 12 per cent to 13 per cent this spring.

There have been a few accidents and oil spills since the \$8 billion pipeline began operation three years ago, the worst of which was a fire and explosion at Pump Station No. 8, near Fairbanks which killed a man during startup in July 1977. But most of the time the 48-inch-diameter pipeline operates without incident.

Oil is pumped out of the ground 400

miles from Fairbanks, on the frigid North Slope, which as far-fetched as it seems today, had a warm and rainy climate 250 million years ago.

Rainfall runoff from the Brooks Range laid dead vegetation and microscopic remains of animals over a bed of sandstone, then sediments covered and compressed the remains, laying the groundwork for the largest oil field discovered in North America.

Found in 1968, the formation is 25 miles across from east to west, 10 miles from north to south. The center of the field is at a depth of 9,000 feet, nearly two miles.

The field's estimated reserves were 9.6 billion barrels when production began in 1977. Since that time more than 1 billion barrels have been pumped south.

Late in the 1980s or early in the next decade, the oil at Prudhoe Bay is expected to run out.

Proposed gas line would supply West and Midwest

The next pipeline scheduled to be built in Alaska will carry natural gas, not oil, to the rest of the United States.

The proposed Alaska Highway gas line project would tap a natural gas deposit in Prudhoe Bay equal to more than 10 per cent of the nation's reserves.

Some 9,000 feet below the surface, oil, gas and water have separated into three layers. The water is the heaviest and the lowest, the oil is in the middle and the gas is on top.

The pressure of the natural gas is about 4,000 pounds per square inch. Right now as the oil is being withdrawn the natural gas is being reinjected into the wells to keep up the pressure that drives the oil to the surface.

Eventually the gas will be extracted and shipped south in a second pipeline.

The chief sponsor of the proposed gas line is Northwest Energy Co. of Salt Lake City, a company selected by President Carter in 1977 and confirmed by Congress.

Only about 740 miles of the 4,800-mile route for the gas line are in Alaska. The pipeline would follow the Alaska Highway south and connect into pipelines in the Lower 48, supplying the Midwest and the West Coast.

The original completion date was 1983, but the current schedule calls for construction to begin in 1982 and for the project to be complete by 1985-86.

Whether that schedule will be met remains in doubt, however, because Northwest has had trouble arranging for financing of the pipeline. Unlike the major oil companies, which built and financed the trans-Alaska oil pipeline themselves, Northwest is trying to get other parties—the nation's major financial houses and the oil companies—to pay for the gas line.

If it's built, the section of the pipeline in Alaska may be buried. At least Northwest hopes it can bury the chilled gas pipeline along most of the route. But the problem of frost heaves, or how to keep the buried pipe from buckling, has not been solved yet.

If you drive out a few miles on Chena Hot Springs Road, you'll see a field with a series of unusual looking pipes running here and there.

That's one of the few tangible pieces of the gas line project, a \$7 million facility where Northwest is trying to prove the pipe can be buried without succumbing to frost heaves.

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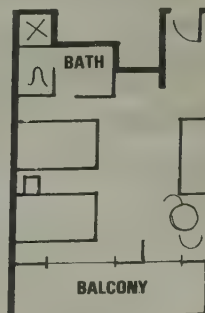
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Yukon marks the end of trip on the haul road

By SUSAN FISHER
News-Miner Bureau

JUNEAU—Don't plan on driving on the North Slope haul road north of the Yukon River this summer.

A compromise bill to ease the strict code governing use of the haul road appeared to have a chance of success this legislative session, and may in fact be passed by June.

But even compromise versions could delay opening the road this summer.

Visitors understandably may be perplexed as to why public use of a publicly maintained road should be an issue.

But it is an issue that has led to splintered opinions both pro and con, and one that has lingered in Interior Alaska for years.

The haul road itself is an unpaved road stretching from the Elliott Highway near Livengood to Prudhoe Bay. It is closed to the public north of the Yukon River.

It was built as a service road during construction of the oil pipeline. In anticipation that it would some day serve as a public highway, it was built to secondary highway standards.

The State of Alaska has assumed maintenance of the once-private road, but use remains limited to industrial traffic, miners with claims, and workers granted permits.

Legislators have struggled over the issue the past four years, and this session there were signs that compromises on public use and policy matters are in the offing.

Heating up the question over

whether the road should be opened to the public are these concerns:

- Alaska is spending about \$8 million a year in public funds to maintain the road.

- Natives living north of the Yukon River fear that opening the road to traffic, permitting hunting or off-road vehicles will interfere with their cultural lifestyles and inhibit the migration of game.

- There are no facilities for the traveling public at this time.

- There is concern over state liability if the road is opened.

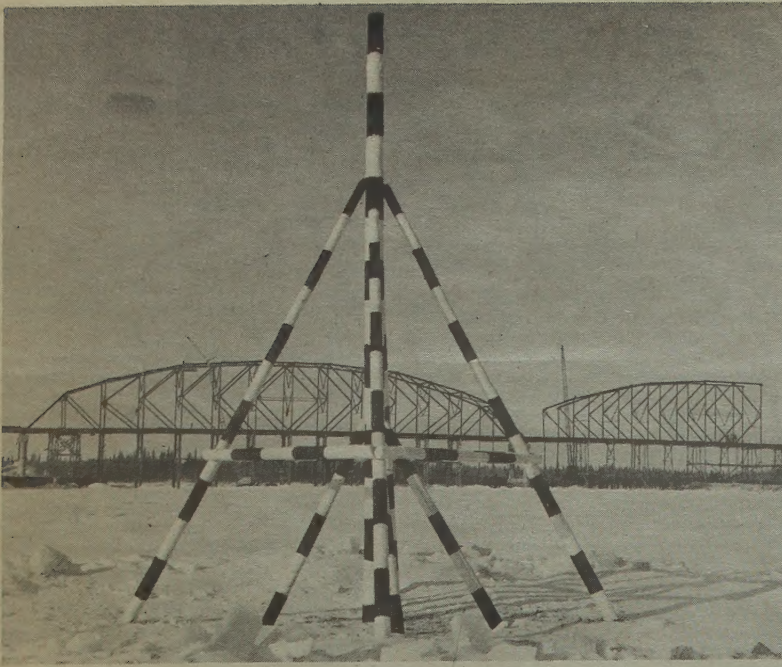
- Some groups fear that opening the road would damage the environment by encouraging commercialization and disrupting the natural surroundings.

With those diverse issues in mind, legislative compromises this session were focused on prohibiting use of firearms within five miles either side of the road; limiting off-the-road vehicle use to miners with claims; limiting public use to summer months, and perhaps delaying opening to public for a few years.

Another compromise would re-define commercial traffic to allow tour buses, perhaps this year. Realistically, however, lack of facilities and planning would delay that until at least 1981.

Even with some of those compromises, the final bill is subject to the governor's review and a 90-day period before the law becomes effective.

There is a chance that if the bill becomes law this year, tour bus companies could gear up for limited tours along the road in 1981.



STANDING FAST—Sitting majestically in the middle of the Tanana River every spring is the ice-breaking tripod of the annual Nenana Ice Classic. The tripod is attached to a clock which trips when the ice moves. Contestants try to guess the exact time the tripod will move in the big-money sweepstakes.

(News-Miner photo)

Alaskans eye their watches for sign of spring in Nenana

Spring doesn't really come to Interior Alaska until it comes to Nenana, a village about 60 miles from Fairbanks on the Tanana River and Parks Highway.

All Alaskans know the word "Nenana" when break-up is around the corner, for break-up at Nenana means money for the winners of the famous Nenana Ice Classic.

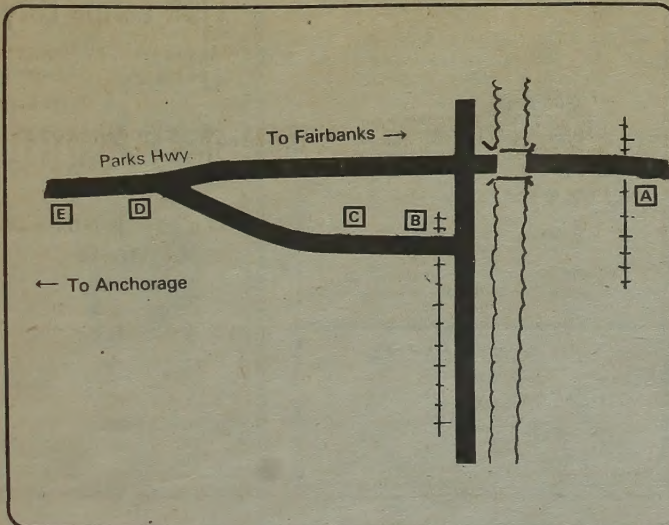
In the Ice Classic Alaskans guess the exact minute the ice will go out in the Tanana River, which flows past the little community of 475 persons. As much as \$100,000 has been offered in cash prizes.

When the tripod placed on the river in March moves with the ice, an attached line stops a clock to show the official break-up time, which then becomes the unofficial beginning of spring in Alaska.

Nenana is a part-Athabaskan river village that became famous when the Alaska Railroad was built through there and the village was visited by then-President Warren G. Harding who drove the golden spike there in 1923 to commemorate the event.

Nenana has a bank, restaurants, a laundromat, grocery store, rooms and a campground.

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Campgrounds guide for Interior travelers

By VIRGINIA DOYLE HEINER
Staff Writer

Visitors driving to Alaska have a number of places to choose from if they want to camp out.

The following guide lists campsites along the Alaska Highway (Route 2) from the Canadian border to Fairbanks, with information on side trips on the Glenn Highway (Route 1) and Slana-Tok Cutoff, the Denali Highway (Route 8) from Paxson to Cantwell, and the Taylor Highway (Route 5), which leaves the Alaska Highway at Jack Wade Junction and ends in the old mining town of Eagle.

After visitors reach Fairbanks itself, it's possible to drive north to the Yukon River on the Steese Highway (Route 6), up the Elliott Highway (Route 2, Alaska Highway continuation) to Manley Hot Springs and the North Slope Haul Road campsites, or up Chena Hot Springs Road, with its numerous state camping areas between miles 27 and 52.5.

South of Fairbanks, visitors may drive on the George Parks Highway (Route 3) to McKinley Park. Listings also are included for the McKinley Park road campsites.

Most of the information for this listing of campgrounds was compiled from The Milepost, published by Alaska Northwest Publishing Co. Additional information came from the owner or agency managing the campground.

Alaska Highway (Route 2), Border to Delta Junction:

Border, mile 1221.8: Port Alcan U.S. Customs and Immigration Service, open 24 hours a day year-round.

Gardiner Creek Campground, mile 1223.4: 8 campsites, charge, firewood, firepits, toilets, no drinking water.

Deadman Lake State Campground, mile 1249.6: 2 miles off highway on dirt road, firepits, toilets, no drinking water.

Lakeview State Campground, mile 1256.7: Yarger Lake campsites, wood, no drinking water.

Tok River State Wayside, mile 1309.3: 15 campsites, firepits, picnic tables, toilets, litter barrels.

Eagle River State Wayside, 15.7 miles from Tok on Glenn Highway: see Glenn Highway listings.

Moon Lake State Wayside, mile 1331.9: 15 campsites, firepits, picnic tables, toilets, litter barrels, swimming beach, dressing rooms, no lifeguard.

Golden Bear Camper Park, 1/4 mile south Tok Junction, mile 1314: full hookups for campers, firepits, picnic tables, drinking water, dump station, laundromat, showers, telephone: 907-883-2561.

Sourdough Campground, 1.5 mile south of Tok Junction: 50 campsites, full hookups, firewood, firepits, picnic tables, laundromat, showers, nature trail, free slide show 7:30 nightly.

Big Gerstle River State Wayside, mile 1393: campsites on riverbank, picnic tables,

toilets, no drinking water.

Clearwater State Campground, mile 1415, 8.5 miles north of highway on Warren Road: 15 campsites on Clearwater River, picnic tables, toilets, litter barrels; grocery store and gas station in area.

Delta BLM Campground, mile 1423.1: 24 campsites, picnic tables, drinking water, toilets.

Alaska Highway (Richardson Highway) Delta Junction north to Fairbanks:

Harding Lake State Campground, mile 1477.5, 1.4 miles off highway: 89 camper/trailer sites, no hookups, picnic grounds and shelter, swimming beach, dressing rooms, concrete boat launching pad, snack bar, State Trooper and park ranger stationed here during summer months.

Salchaket Homestead, mile 1478.3: overnight self-contained camper parking, full hookups, dump station, propane, gas, ice, cafe, dining room, cocktail lounge.

North Pole Public Park, 5th Ave., North Pole, mile 1506: 10-15 free mobile and tent campsites, five-day limit, fireplaces, rest rooms.

Glenn Highway (Route 1), Nabesna Road and Slana-Tok Cutoff (Tok to Glennallen listings):

Eagle River State Wayside, 15.7 miles from Tok on Glenn Highway: 40 campsites, firepits, picnic area, water, toilets, rain shelter, hiking trails.

Slana River Bridge Campsite, Nabesna Road, (intersection 65.2 miles from Tok): one of several BLM campsites along the Nabesna Road; this campground is two miles from the intersection. Campsites, firewood, firepits, picnic tables, drinking water, toilets, litter barrels.

Nabesna Road Campsite, campsite 6.3 miles from the intersection: campsites, firewood, firepits, picnic tables, drinking water, toilets, litter barrels.

Long Lake Campsite, 23.2 mile Nabesna Road: campsites 1/2 mile from lake, firewood, firepits, picnic tables, drinking water, toilets, litter barrels, float plane landings.

Sportsmen's Paradise Lodge, 28.5 mile Nabesna Road: free camper parking, sandwiches, bar, gas, air taxi service, fishing, boating, hunting.

Posty's Sinona Creek Trading Post, 90.4 miles from Tok on Glenn Highway: parking for camp coaches and trailers, sanitary dump, laundry, showers, groceries, liquor store, furs, Indian moccasins and birch baskets, outdoor clothing, fishing and hunting licences, gas, propane.

Tolsona Wilderness Campground, near Glennallen, 155 miles from Tok, 1 mile off highway: campsites on Tolsona Creek, \$4 per night plus \$2 for water and electrical hookups, fireplaces, picnic tables, rest rooms, litter barrels, dump station, showers.

Taylor Highway (Route 5), Jack Wade Junction to Eagle, Alaska:

Eagle BLM Campground, mile 159.6: 10 campsites, firewood, firepits, picnic tables, drinking water, toilets, litter barrels.

Fort Egbert BLM Campground, mile 160.3: campsites, firewood, firepits, picnic tables, drinking water, toilets, litter barrels.

Fairbanks, mile 1520:

Visitor Information, Chamber of Commerce log cabin, corner First Ave. and Cushman St.: free brochures, maps, information on what to see and how to get there, telephone 907-452-1105, open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. The nearest public campsites are at Harding Lake, 42 miles south of town on the Richardson Highway; just off the Richardson Highway; and the Chatanika Campground, 39 miles up the Steese Highway. There are no public campgrounds in the immediate vicinity of Fairbanks.

Alaskaland Visitor Information Center, Airport Way: open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Norlite Campground, Inc., 1/4 mile south of Airport Way on Peger Road: 250 camper and tent sites, complete hookups for city water, electricity and sewer, dump station, laundry, showers, tour tickets and information, liquor store, truck/car wash, grocery store, monthly rates, telephone 907-452-4206.

Tanana Valley Campground, Tanana Valley State Fair Grounds, 2 mile College Road: 25-30 campsites with gravel pads, fireplaces, picnic tables, laundry, open Memorial through Labor Days, telephone 907-452-3750, Box 188, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

Frontier Motel and Camper Parking, 2 mile Richardson Highway: 12-15 campsites with hookups, over-night only, drinking water, toilets, litter barrels, telephone: 907-452-8090.

George Parks Highway (Route 3), Fairbanks south to McKinley Park and McKinley Park Road:

McKinley KOA Campground, 109.5 miles from Fairbanks: 52 campsites, 12 with full hookups, 8 with additional electricity, \$8 per night plus \$2 hookup fee, firewood, picnic tables, laundry, showers, repairshop, propane.

Riley Creek Visitor Center and Information, 1 mile from junction Parks Highway and McKinley Park Road, 120.7 miles from Fairbanks: visitor information including maps, brochures, schedules of events, information on hikes, nature walks, sled-dog demonstrations, wildlife tours, overnight camping and hiking permits, 102 campsites for tents, campers and trailers, drinking water, flush toilets, dump station.

Savage River, 12 mile McKinley Park Road: 29 campsites for tents, campers and trailers, fireplaces, picnic tables, drinking water, toilets. No vehicles are permitted beyond this campsite without permission from park headquarters.

Sanctuary River, 22 mile McKinley Park Road: 7 campsites for tents, campers and trailers, water must be boiled before drinking, toilets.

Teklanika River, 29 mile McKinley Park Road: 50 campsites for tents, campers and trailers, fireplaces, picnic tables, drinking water, toilets.

Igloo Creek, 35 mile McKinley Park Road: 7 campsites, for tents only, water must be boiled before drinking, toilets.

Eielson Visitor Center, 66 mile McKinley Park Road: hot and cold running water for campers, rest rooms, radio available for reporting accidents and emergencies to park headquarters.

Wonder Lake, 85 mile McKinley Park Road: 23 campsites, for tenting only, fireplaces, picnic tables, drinking water, toilets, campfire talks given by park staff.

Denali Highway (Route 8), Paxson to Cantwell, Alaska:

Tangle Lakes BLM Campgrounds, mile 21.5 and mile 21.7: 20 campsites, firewood, firepits, picnic tables, drinking water, toilets, litter barrels, lake swimming, no lifeguard, boat launching.

Brushkana Creek BLM Campground, mile 104.3: 12 campsites, firewood, firepits, picnic tables, drinking water, toilets, litter barrels.

Chena Hot Springs Road, Fairbanks to Chena Hot Springs Resort:

Rainbow Valley R.V. Court, 4 miles from Fairbanks at junction New Steese Highway and Chena Hot Springs Road: 40 full hookups, dump station, showers, telephone 907-452-8891.

Miles 27-52.5, Chena Hot Springs Road: State of Alaska undeveloped area, camping allowed, numerous sites on river bars, or wherever level ground provides a good site, no facilities except for scattered outhouses.

Chena Hot Springs Resort, 60 miles from Fairbanks at the end of Chena Hot Springs Road: 400 acres for camping, with parking lot space for 100 campers, picnicking, badminton, volleyball, hiking, swimming in naturally heated pool, lodge, restaurant, bar, telephone 907-456-4587, 1919 Lathrop St., Drawer 25, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

Steese Highway (Route 6), Fairbanks to Circle, Alaska:

Chatanika River Campground, mile 39: 18 campsites, firewood, fireplaces, drinking water, toilets.

Long Creek Lodge, mile 45.5: 22 campsites for R.V.'s, full hookups, drinking water, toilets, dump station, laundry, showers, propane, gas, groceries, bar, hiking trail, telephone 907-452-8800, 529 Fifth Ave., Suite 3, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

Cripple Creek BLM Campground, mile 60: 21 campsites, 15 for camper/trailer units, firewood, fireplaces, picnic tables, drinking water, toilets, cabins available by reservation.

Bedrock Creek BLM Campground, mile 119.2: 8 campsites, firewood, firepits, picnic tables, drinking water, toilets, litter barrels.

Ketchum Creek Bridge BLM Campground, mile 5.7 Circle Hot Springs Road, intersection of this road and Steese Highway at Central: 7 campsites, firewood, firepits, picnic tables, drinking water, toilets, litter barrels.

Circle City Campground, mile 162: campsite at the end of the road near the Yukon River, firewood, firepits, picnic tables, drinking water, toilets, litter barrels.

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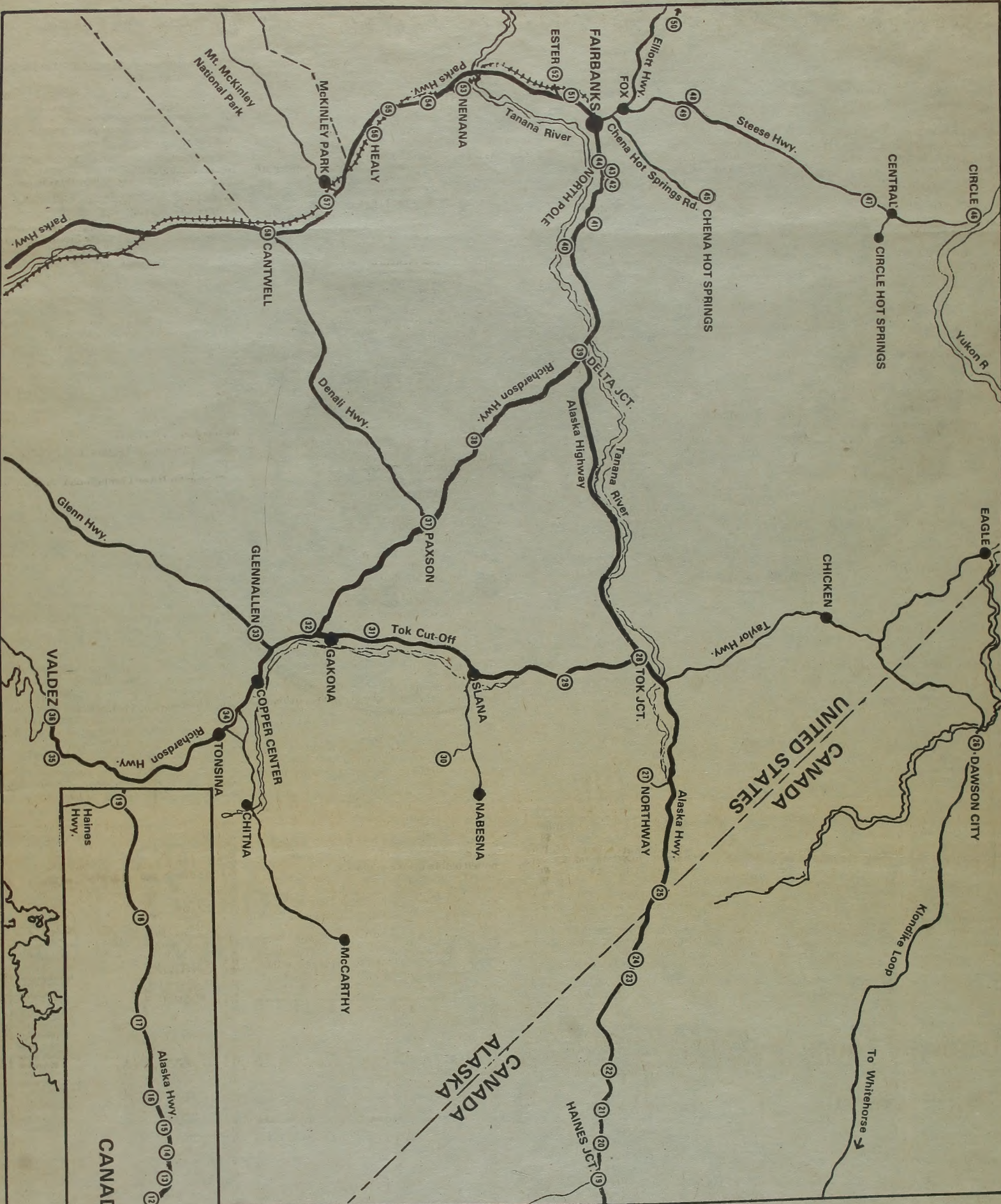
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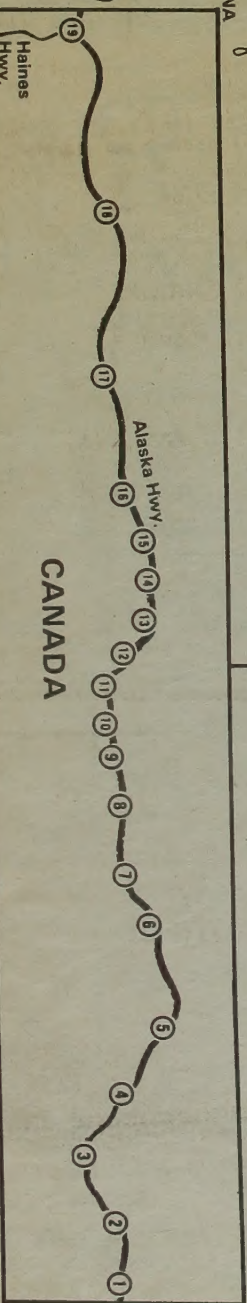
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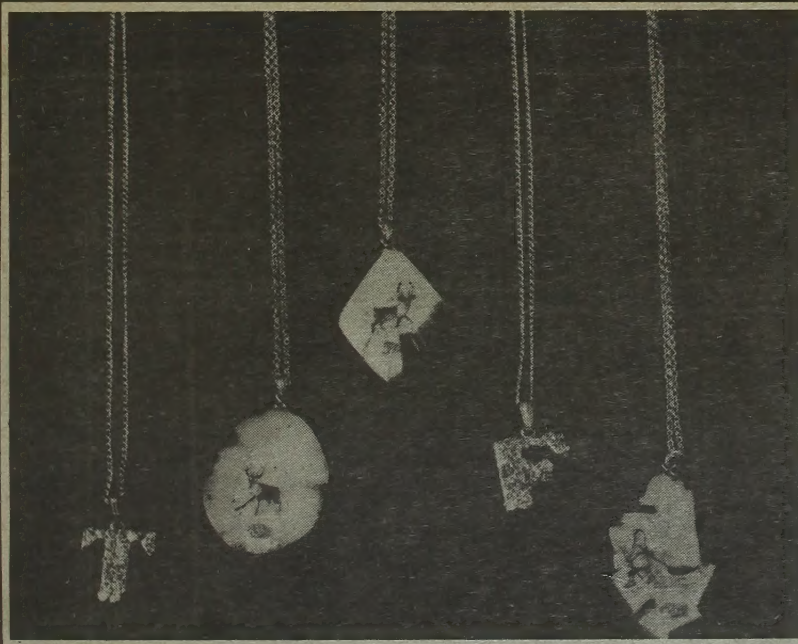
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